

STARS AND STRIPES®

**Rally revives
Cowboys' playoff hopes**

Back page

Cowboys' Julius Jones

**House works out
military provision
on intel bill**

Page 9



**Dafoe breaks from
tough-guy roles
with new movie**

Page 21

Actor William Dafoe

Volume 63, No. 235 © EPSS 2004

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WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2004

50¢

1st AD captain to face trial in shooting death of Iraqi

Officer says killing of injured man was 'act of mercy' Page 3



Searching for
a clearer picture

**Relatives of ex-football player Pat Tillman
demand answers as Army reopens inquiry
into Ranger's death in Afghanistan**

Page 6

Left: Pat Tillman marches at Army graduation in October 2002; Center: Tillman's brother-in-law pours a beer in Tillman's honor at a memorial service in May 2004; Right: Tillman celebrates while playing for the Arizona Cardinals in 1998.

LEFT: KRT; CENTER AND RIGHT: AP; PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY SEIGFRIED BRUNER/Stars and Stripes



U.S. Vice President Dick Cheney and
Afghanistan President Hamid Karzai

**Karzai pledges
stability for
Afghanistan
at inauguration**

Page 11

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TODAY IN STRIPES

Abby, Annie's Mailbox.....	24
Annual Roundup	16-17
Classified	25-28
Comics	22-24
Crossword	23
Faces	21
Horoscope	22
Letters	14
Opinion	15
Sports	29-36
TV listings	20
Weather	13
Your Money	12

News Tracker ... What's new with old news

World

Romania rock star funeral: Hundreds of fans turned out Tuesday in this Transylvanian city for the funeral of a Romania rock star who was killed in a car accident involving a U.S. Marine.

Teofil Peter, a 50-year-old bass player with the popular Romanian band Compact, died in the crash early Saturday.

Romania's Prime Minister Adrian Nastase appealed to President Bush on Tuesday to help bring the Marine to justice, adding that his immediate departure from the country after the accident has caused outrage in Romania.

Ukraine election: Lawmakers convened in Kiev's parliament Tuesday in hopes of striking a deal that would secure a fair presidential vote at the end of the month, and opposition protesters appeared to grow restless with the prolonged political crisis.

An initial agreement Monday between opposition leader Viktor Yushchenko's camp and Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich's supporters called for simultaneous passage of two issues by parliament.

But the deal appeared in jeopardy early Tuesday after late-night European-mediated talks.

Moroccan terror suspects' trial: Five Moroccans held for nearly three years at the U.S. military prison in Guantanamo Bay—including a suspected bodyguard for Osama bin Laden—went on trial in Rabat charged with posing a threat to national security.

Arrested in Pakistan and Afghanistan in late 2001, all five were accused of taking training courses in how to handle firearms and make explosives.

Soon after the trial opened Monday at a Rabat criminal court, lawyers for the group won a two-week postponement until Dec. 20 to better prepare their defense. The court denied a request that the defendants be released from prison during the trial.

After spending two years and eight months at the U.S. detention camp in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, the men were turned over to Moroccan authorities in August.

Mad cow in Italy: A cow in southern Italy has tested positive for mad cow disease, raising to 124 the number of cases detected in the country since testing began in 2001, the Health Ministry said Monday.

The ministry said analysis confirmed that an 8-year-old cow from a breeding farm in the countryside of Avellino had the disease.

The disease affects the brains of cattle and is incurable. Two years ago, Italy reported its first case of the Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease, which experts believe is transmitted by eating meat from infected animals.

States

U.S. border checks: Foreign nationals entering the United States zipped through the



U.S. Army deserter: Former U.S. Army deserter Charles Jenkins, left, and his wife, Hitomi Soga, smile Tuesday while holding bouquets of flowers they received upon their arrival at Mano Town Hall in Sado, a small island in the Sea of Japan. Greeted by cheering crowds, the couple and their two daughters will start a new life in Soga's hometown after Jenkins finished serving a one-month sentence for abandoning his Army post in 1965 to avoid the perils of duty on the Korean peninsula.

main port in Nogales and several other locations in Arizona and California as a new digital screening program went into effect.

"It's much faster this way," said Adolfo Moroyouqui Felix, who was traveling between Mexico and Phoenix. "They had to fill out paperwork before. It's more effective this way." The screenings are part of a post-Sept. 11 plan to one day ID and record every foreigner who enters and leaves the United States. It has been in place at U.S. airports and seaports for nearly a year. It will be in the country's 50 busiest land ports by the end of the month and at all 165 land border crossings by the end of next year.

Scott Peterson trial: In tearful testimony, Scott Peterson's family and friends pleaded with jurors to spare his life, contending that he was mistakenly convicted of killing his pregnant wife, Laci.

Testimony in the seven-month-old trial's penalty phase was set to continue Tuesday and run into the next day before closing arguments. Jurors were expected to begin deliberating Thursday whether to sentence Peterson to life without parole or the death penalty. Peterson was convicted Nov. 12 of one count of first-degree murder in the death of his pregnant wife, Laci, and one count of second-degree murder for the killing of her fetus.

Arthritis drugs: New research suggests that pain reliever Celebrex does not carry the same heart attack risk as Vioxx, a similar drug pulled from the market in September because of safety concerns.

The study by researchers at the University of Pennsylvania compares the two arthritis drugs and contradicts claims by other scientists that all so-called cox-2 inhibitors may carry similar dangers.

Governor recount: Washington state has ordered a third vote tally—this time an expensive and time-consuming hand count—to solve a political mystery: Who will be the state's next governor? The state Supreme Court apparently will jump into the fray later this week, potentially expanding the number of ballots to be counted.

The first count ended with Republican Dino Rossi 261 votes ahead of Democrat Christine Gregoire out of 2.9 million ballots cast five weeks ago. An automatic machine recount certified a week ago again put Rossi ahead, this time by 42 votes.

On Monday, Secretary of State Sam Reed ordered a statewide hand recount.

Deadly smuggling attempt: A Honduran man who survived the nation's deadliest human smuggling attempt described a grim scene inside the trailer where he was packed with other immigrants.

"We were very desperate. People were taking off their clothes ... I was very weak," said David Fernando Amaya-Leon, who testified Monday in the trial of three people who prosecutors say are members of a smuggling ring that tried to transport him and more than 70 other illegal immigrants from South Texas to Houston in May 2003 inside the trailer.

Photos and stories by The Associated Press

Correction

A story in Tuesday's edition about cargo being loaded onto a Military Sealift Command ship in England contained incorrect information. The equipment came from the Army Field Support Battalion in Hythe, England.

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Court-martial to hear alleged 'mercy' killing

Stars and Stripes

A 1st Armored Division officer will stand trial on a charge that he fatally shot an unarmed, wounded Iraqi man while his unit was deployed downrange.

Capt. Rogelio M. Maynulet, 29, of Chicago, now assigned to the division's Headquarters and Headquarters Company, will be court-martialed on charges of assault with intent to commit murder and dereliction of duty, according to a 1st AD news release.

He faces a maximum combined sentence of 20½ years in prison, said Maj. Michael Indovina, the 1st AD public affairs officer.

While awaiting trial, Maynulet is not in custody and has been "conducting normal

duties as an officer" while his case has been under review, Indovina said.

Maynulet, who at the time of the shooting was commander of Company A, 2nd Battalion, 37th Armor Regiment, faces the charges from a May 21 incident near Kufa, Iraq.

Maynulet was leading his tank company on a patrol when they came across a BMW sedan believed to be carrying a driver for radical Shiite cleric Muqtada al-Sadr and another militiaman loyal to the cleric, whose supporters rose up against U.S. forces twice this year.

U.S. soldiers charged the vehicle and fired shots at it, wounding both the driver and passenger.

When a medic pulled the driver out of the car, it was clear he had suffered critical injuries, with part of his skull blown away, according to testimony during the Article 32 hearing.

Maynulet's fellow officer, 1st Lt. Colin Cremin, testified that Maynulet told him then shot the Iraqi in the base of the

neck or the back of the head.

"It was something he didn't want to do, but it was the compassionate response," Cremin testified. "It was definitely the humane response."

During Maynulet's Article 32 hearing, which is similar to a civilian grand jury, the shooting was described by prosecutors as murder and by others as an "act of mercy."

Maj. Gen. Martin Dempsey, the 1st AD commander, had received the case after the October hearing in Hanau, Germany, found that there was enough evidence for a court-martial. Dempsey decided on Monday to forward the case to a general court-martial.

Indovina said he couldn't release the amount of time it took Dempsey to decide the case.

A judge has yet to be assigned to the case. When that happens, the judge will determine the trial dates and venue and possibly set an arraignment date.

Staff writers Jason Chudy and Kent Harris and The Associated Press contributed to this report.

Ohio soldier's hearing closes

BAGHDAD — A two-day military court hearing closed Tuesday into the case of a U.S. soldier charged with murdering an Iraqi man and making a false statement regarding the incident.

Spc. Brent May, 22, of Salem, Ohio, is charged with the August murder of an Iraqi civilian in Baghdad's impoverished Sadr City, the scene of fierce clashes between American-led coalition forces and Shiite rebels allied to firebrand anti-U.S. cleric Muqtada al-Sadr. May also faces one charge of falsifying an official statement, or deposition, regarding the alleged murder.

The soldier is attached to Company C, 1st Battalion, 41st Infantry Regiment, from Fort Riley, Kansas, and was charged in September — along with Sgt. Michael P. Williams, 25, of Memphis, Tennessee — with three counts of premeditated murder of three Iraqis.

Williams has not yet been brought before a military court.

From The Associated Press

Vicenza will soon accept pregnant patients again

BY KENT HARRIS

Stars and Stripes

After more than a decade, military doctors in Vicenza, Italy, will soon be back in the baby business.

The Europe Army Regional Medical Command announced Monday that a \$3.2 million birthing center will be built next to the health clinic on Caserma Ederle, with a projected opening date in late spring.

"The spouses that have heard about it ... elated would be a good description," said Lt. Col. John Alvarez, the clinic's deputy commander.

After a drawdown of troops in Vicenza a decade ago, soldiers and their families have had to use local hospitals or travel to other military facilities. Alvarez estimates about 40 percent of the Vicenza births in recent years have occurred at the Air Force's hospital in Sialle near Aviano Air Base, about a 90-minute drive from Vicenza.

Another one-third of the babies were born in local Italian hospitals, mainly the San Bartolo facility in Vicenza. Other pregnant women chose to go back to the States.

Those with difficult births were sent to Landstuhl Regional Medical Center in Germany or the university hospital in nearby Padova. That will still be the case even when the center opens on base.

Andriolo S.R.L. has been awarded the contract to build the 7,700-square-foot facility, which will employ at least 33 people when it opens. It will feature two birthing rooms, operating rooms, examination rooms and a family waiting area.

Alvarez said that space is tight on Caserma Ederle, but the command feels strongly that it needs a place for soldiers and their spouses to give birth. There are about a dozen babies born in the Vicenza community each month and, he said, that number is projected to grow to more than 20 as more troops arrive in the community in a few years.

The 31st Medical Group, which operates the facility in Sialle while its medical facility is under massive renovation at Aviano, said the births from Vicenza comprise only about five of the 35 monthly deliveries it handles. Staffing levels won't be affected by the drop in births.

Having a birthing center on base in Vicenza will help morale, Alvarez said, and cut down on lost time soldiers spend away from units traveling to other facilities.

"Obviously, a soldier's place when his wife is delivering is with her," Alvarez said.

Soon, that place could be on base in Vicenza.

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Lending a helping hand



JASON CHUDY/Stars and Stripes

Toys for Tots coordinator Staff Sgt. Christopher Rosenfelt takes a handful of toys from area Latino Unidos members Petty Officer 1st Class Luis Lujan, left, and Lt. j.g. Rudy Madrid, center, at the base exchange Tuesday. Latinos Unidos, a Hispanic cultural organization, donated \$500 worth of toys to the local Toys for Tots program. While there, Rosenfelt also received a \$300 donation from local Federal Express and Boeing employees. Donations to the Naples Toys for Tots program will be given to military families needing help during the holidays and local orphanages. Toys for Tots has gift collection boxes at all base exchanges. They will stop collecting gifts on Sunday.

Wife convicted of murder

FAYETTEVILLE, N.C. — A woman has been sentenced to life in prison for killing her husband, an Air Force officer, so she could be with her lover, an enlisted Army soldier.

Michelle Therer, 33, was sentenced after a jury convicted her on charges of first-degree murder and conspiracy to commit murder in the December 2000 shooting death of Capt. Marty Therer.

Therer's lawyer, Kirk Osborn, said she will appeal the decision.

In closing statements Thursday, prosecutors described Therer as the mastermind behind her husband's death.

They said Therer conspired with Staff Sgt. John Diamond to kill her husband. After the slaying, she fled to Florida and lived there until she was tracked down by authorities.

Diamond is serving a life sentence in a military prison for murdering Marty Therer.

The defense argued the case was about murder, not adultery, and that the state's case was weak.

Therer was "not on trial for having sex with many men. She is not on trial for having a sexual addiction, if that is what she had," said her lawyer, Kirk Osborn.

Drowning under investigation

Results of an investigation into the death of an 11-year-old boy found drowned in the bathtub in the Neubrucke housing area near Baumholder, Germany, will not be available until after the new year, according to LeAnne N. MacAllister,

spokeswoman for the 222nd Base Support Battalion.

The boy, whose name was not released, was found dead Nov. 11 behind a locked bathroom door. The family moved back to the States immediately after the death.

The Criminal Investigation Command in Baumholder is completing the forensic process of the investigation, which is not expected to be complete before January, according to an e-mail from MacAllister.

More information will be released once the investigation is complete, she stated.

From staff and wire reports

Witnesses review evidence in Wiesbaden murder trial

BY KEVIN DOUGHERTY

Stars and Stripes

WIESBADEN, Germany — Soiled and blood-stained, the baby blue jersey and white T-shirt hang in the courtroom for all to see.

Prosecutors in the murder trial of Pvt. Nestor K. Velazquez have summoned several witnesses to identify them.

"Do you recognize these clothes?" Capt. Charles Kovats, a military prosecutor, repeatedly asked witnesses.

The prosecution views Velazquez's shirts as key pieces of evidence that they say link the 19-year-old Wiesbaden soldier to the murder of Santo Scardino. Scardino, 18, was stabbed to death in the early morning hours of April 18 during a melee at the Euro Palace, a Wiesbaden nightclub. Velazquez's attorneys admit he was involved in the fight, but say he and another soldier were trying to extricate themselves from a confrontation with Scardino and several friends when the situation turned violent.

Prosecutors have focused their attention on the clothing and a pocketknife they consider the murder weapon, which were recovered from the scene. They say lab tests of the knife and garments link Velazquez to the crime, a point that will be brought out in further testimony.

In his opening statement to the six-member panel assembled in a Wiesbaden Army Airfield courtroom, Kovats indicated the baby blue shirt — a University of North Carolina basketball jersey — had the victim's blood on it. The same, he added, is true of the knife, which allegedly has the soldier's DNA on it.

However, the clothes and knife are objects of sharp contention by the defense.

Some witnesses said they saw Velazquez in those clothes, but others called to the stand said many other people were wearing roughly similar apparel. Army Staff Sgt. Craig Davenport, who testified

Monday, went to the Euro Palace that April night with two other noncommissioned officers. Davenport said he went to check out the club, a popular hangout for Wiesbaden-area soldiers that can draw between 3,000 and 4,000 people on a weekend night.

Davenport said he witnessed part of the brawl and the aftermath. Davenport said he saw a man leave the scene of the stabbing, but by his description, it didn't appear to be Velazquez.

"The guy I saw was taller, and his skin seemed a lot darker," Davenport testified.

During Tuesday's proceedings, defense attorney Capt. Will Helixon brought up the possibility of another attacker with the lead German investigator in the case, Thomas Toelle.

On cross-examination, Helixon asked Toelle about the other man, identified as a Moroccan. The man's clothes — a white shirt, white pants and white shoes — also were taken for analysis, the investigator said. There was no evidence linking the clothes to the crime, prosecutors said.

Helixon asked Toelle how long after the incident the Moroccan man was questioned by police. It was 90 minutes to two hours later, the investigator said.

When Helixon asked Toelle about other witnesses who said they saw the Moroccan man drop a knife near the scene, Toelle looked surprised.

"I am unaware of a witness being asked at the scene saying this man dropped the knife," Toelle said through a translator.

Defense attorneys also challenged the chain of custody of evidence seized as part of the investigation, including the DNA swabs from Velazquez.

The prosecution could wrap up its case when the trial resumes Wednesday.

"We're giving the panel everything we have, and they have to decide what happened," said prosecutor Maj. Meg Foreman.

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'Oliver' opening



CHARLIE COON/Stars and Stripes

The cast of "Oliver" performs "Food, Glorious Food" on Friday during the opening night of the musical at the Kelley Theatre on Kelley Barracks in Stuttgart, Germany. Performers include 63 cast members and a nine-person orchestra. The performance was the first of 15 scheduled for December and January.

Solder jailed for affair with 14-year-old

BY STEVE LIEWER

Stars and Stripes

WÜRZBURG, Germany — A Schweinfurt-based soldier has been sentenced to a year in prison for carrying on a sexual relationship with the 14-year-old daughter of another soldier, according to a case summary from the 1st Infantry Division's Staff Judge Advocate's office.

Pvt. Tyler Hall, 20, of the 1st

Battalion, 18th Infantry Regiment, pleaded guilty to one count of carnal knowledge and one count of violating an order at a general court-martial Friday.

On April 2, Hall was pulled over by German police and found to be driving with a U.S. Army Europe driver's license that had been revoked three months earlier because of a drunken-driving offense, the summary said.

Three weeks later, Hall began

a monthlong relationship with the girl. He had sex with her about 10 times, said Capt. Zahid Qurashi, the military prosecutor, and warned her not to tell anyone because he would get into trouble.

Judge (Lt. Col.) Robin Hall sentenced him to 40 months in prison, total forfeiture of all pay and a dishonorable discharge. Under the terms of a pretrial agreement, the jail term was limited to 12 months.

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KENT HARRIS/Stars and Stripes

Volunteer Sharon Sansone shows a potential gift to Paisley Zika, 3, on Monday at the Christmas Cottage on Aviano Air Base, Italy, as her older sister, Preslie, 7, watches. Hundreds of kids at Aviano shopped for their parents, while the parents waited in the lobby.

Aviano children pick out special gifts for parents

BY KENT HARRIS

Stars and Stripes

AVIANO AIR BASE, Italy — A few hundred Air Force parents should find surprises under the Christmas tree this year.

That's because their kids played Santa on Monday and Tuesday at the base community center. More than 350 children were expected to pick out gifts at the Christmas Cottage.

It's the fifth year the Aviano Officer and Civilian Spouses Club has sponsored the event, which is more popular than ever, according to chairperson Jana McKinley. All proceeds go to Project Cheer, a USAFPE program geared toward single airmen.

Gifts were donated or purchased from proceeds generated by the group's fall bazaar. Kids up to 12 years old were allowed to tour through a room of selections and choose a single gift for Mom and Dad by handing over a 25-cent donation. Parents waited outside in the lobby area while

the kids got some help from adult volunteers.

Patti Busque, who was among those playing gift shepherd, said not many of the young shoppers appeared to come in hunting for a specific item. So they chose from assorted gifts targeting Mom and items specifically geared for Dad.

Spoiler alert: There were no ties for sale.

"But we do have handkerchiefs," McKinley said.

Jessica Zika patiently waited for her daughters Preslie, 7, and Paisley, 3, to make their selections. She smiled when asked if it was nice to have a few minutes to spend alone.

"If you can call this 'alone,'" she said, gesturing toward a room filled with parents and kids waiting their turn.

She said she had no idea what her daughters would pick out for her or her husband, Senior Airman Simon Zika.

"They'll do well."

E-mail Kent Harris at: harris@mail.strips.osd.mil

Bush thanks Pendleton troops

By DEB RIECHMANN

The Associated Press

CAMP PENDLETON, Calif. — President Bush, appearing before cheering U.S. forces Tuesday, declared that terrorists won't be able to control Iraq's destiny because "free people will never choose their own enslavement."

Bush said that as election day there approaches on Jan. 30, "we can expect further violence" but also said that the balloting must go forward.

A large crowd of Marines clad in tan-and-green camouflage uniforms bellowed "oo-rah," as Bush, who donned a tan military-style jacket with epaulettes, thanked U.S. forces. He said the bravery and sacrifice of the troops has made America safer.

"You see, the terrorists understand what is at stake," the president said. "They know they have no future in a free Iraq."

"They know democracy will give Iraqis a stake in the future of their country," Bush said. "When Iraqis choose their leader in free elections, it will destroy the myth that the terrorists are fighting a foreign occupation and make clear that what the terrorists really are fighting is the will of the Iraqi people."



President Bush is escorted by U.S. Naval officers left, and Marine officers to an awards ceremony at Marine Corp Air Station Miramar on Tuesday in San Diego. Bush addressed troops at Camp Pendleton, which has experienced one of the largest casualty rates in Iraq.

Bush addressed troops at a stadium at Camp Pendleton in southern California, which has experienced one of the largest casualty rates in Iraq.

More than 21,000 troops from the 1st Marine Expeditionary Force, based at Camp Pendleton, are serving in al-Anbar province in Iraq.

They belong to units that have done house-to-house searches for weapons in Fallujah, handed out food and water to Iraqi citizens, taken fire from rocket launchers and fought masked insurgents toting AK-47s.

Bush planned lunch with troops and a meeting with families of servicemen at this military base, 38 miles north of San Diego. More than 21,000 Marines serving in Iraq and neighboring nations are part of the 1st Marine Expeditionary Force based there.

Speaking on the 63rd anniversary of Pearl Harbor, Bush suggested ways Americans can actively support the troops.

Several options include a Defense Department program called "America Supports You," designed to showcase support for the military from individuals, businesses and groups as a way of encouraging others to do the same.

The ongoing insurgency in Iraq and upcoming elections on Jan. 30 dominated the president's meeting at the White House on Monday with Iraqi interim President Ghazi al-Yawer. Postponing the election, both leaders said, would amount to giving a concession to insurgents.

More than 200 U.S. troops from units based at Camp Pendleton have died since the beginning of Iraqi Freedom in March 2003, according to a Defense Department casualty count.

Among their missions, Camp Pendleton Marines were among the thousands of U.S. and Iraqi troops that fought recently to secure the insurgent stronghold of Fallujah.

U.S. deaths in Iraq

The Associated Press

As of Monday, at least 1,276 members of the U.S. military have died since the beginning of the Iraq war in March 2003, according to an Associated Press count. At least 998 died as a result of hostile action, the Defense Department said. The figures include three military civilians.

The AP count is six higher than the Defense Department's tally, last updated at 10 a.m. EST Monday.

The British military has reported 74 deaths; Italy, 19; Poland, 13; Spain, 11; Ukraine, nine; Bulgaria, seven; Slovakia, three; Estonia, Thailand and the Netherlands, two each; and Denmark, El Salvador, Hungary and Latvia one death each.

Since May 1, 2003, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 1,138 U.S. military members have died, according to AP's count. That includes at least 889 deaths resulting from hostile action, according to the military's numbers.

The latest deaths reported by the military:

■ Three Marines were killed in action in two separate incidents Sunday in Anbar province.

■ Two Marines were killed Friday in fighting in western Anbar province.

The latest identifications reported by the military:

■ Army Staff Sgt. Henry E. Irizarry, 38, New York; died Friday in Tajik when an explosive detonated near his vehicle; assigned to the 1st Battalion, 69th Infantry Regiment, New York.

■ Army Spc. David P. Mahlenbrock, 20, Maple Shade, N.J.; died Friday in Kirkuk when he was clearing a route and an explosive detonated; assigned to the 65th Engineer Battalion, 25th Infantry Division (Light), Schofield Barracks, Hawaii.

■ Army Staff Sgt. Carl A. Gasiewicz, 28, Depew, N.Y.; died Saturday in Baqubah when two explosives detonated near her convoy; assigned to the 202nd Military Intelligence Battalion, 513th Military Intelligence Brigade, Fort Gordon, Ga.

■ Marine Cpl. Binh N. Le, 20, Alexandria, Va., and Marine Cpl. Matthew A. Wyatt, 21, Millstadt, Ill. Both Marines died Friday from injuries received in action in Anbar province; assigned to 3rd Battalion, 10th Marine Regiment, 2nd Marine Division, 1st Marine Expeditionary Force, Camp Lejeune, N.C.

■ Army Staff Sgt. Salamo J. Tualatunzu, 23, of Pago Pago, American Samoa, and Army Staff Sgt. David A. Mitts, 24, of Hammond, Ore. Both soldiers died Saturday in Mosul when they were killed from injuries sustained in the 3rd Battalion, 21st Infantry Regiment, 1st Brigade, 25th Infantry Division (Strike) Brigade Combat Team, Fort Lewis, Wash.

Iraq official: Insurgents cross border too easily

By NICK WADHAM

The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — Iraq's deputy prime minister on Tuesday expressed his growing impatience with neighboring countries for not doing enough to keep foreign fighters from joining the insurgency here, and warned that his government would take a "decisive stance" if they don't do more.

Also Tuesday, two U.S. servicemen were killed, the military said. A soldier was slain by small-arm fire while on patrol in Baghdad and a Marine died in a vehicle accident in the western Anbar province.

In Russia, President Vladimir Putin said Tuesday he could not imagine how Iraqi elections scheduled for Jan. 30 could be held under current conditions. Insurgents in the country have killed more than 80 Iraqis in a string of attacks since Friday, and Iraq's Sunni Arab Muslims are demanding the vote be postponed.

"Honestly speaking, I cannot imagine how it is possible to organize elections under the conditions of occupation by foreign forces," Putin said in televised comments during a Kremlin meeting with Iraqi interim Prime Minister Ayad Allawi.

Barham Saleh, speaking to the Iraqi National Council, did not say which countries were to blame for not tightening border crossings, though he did say that on Monday, Iraqi police had arrested a Syrian citizen driving a car bomb packed with artillery shells and other explosives.

"There is evidence indicating that some



U.S. troops inspect a shop in Baghdad that was destroyed by an explosion early Tuesday. The shop, close to Baghdad's dangerous airport highway, was bombed after the owner refused to cooperate with insurgents.

groups in some neighboring countries are playing a direct role in the killing of the Iraqi people and such thing is not acceptable to us," Saleh said, adding that talks with foreign leaders to stop the problem had gotten nowhere.

"In my opinion, we have reached a stage in which if we do not see a real response from these countries, then we are obliged to take a decisive stance," Saleh said, without giving details.

In the past, Iraq has blamed much of its insurgency on foreign fighters and has called on its neighbors — particularly Syria and Iran — to more closely guard their borders against infiltration.

Neighboring countries have expressed concern that instability in Iraq poses a threat to the entire region.

The U.S. military said American troops had

captured 34 Iraqis, including 10 wanted for making explosives devices to attack coalition forces. South of Baghdad, a roadside bomb killed three Iraqi National Guardsmen.

Soldiers from the 1st Infantry Division detained seven members of a car bomb-making cell Monday evening in As Sinyah, about 150 miles north of Baghdad. Another seven people, including three suspects wanted for making roadside bombs, were captured during raids Monday in Saddam Hussein's hometown, about 80 miles north of Baghdad.

In the roadside bombing, the Iraqi National Guardsmen were patrolling an area near Jebah, about 40 miles south of Baghdad, on Monday evening when the attack occurred, an Iraqi National Guard official said on condition of anonymity. The National Guard and other homegrown Iraqi security forces frequently are targeted by insurgents, who accuse them of collaborating with U.S.-led occupation forces.

Friendly fire: The death of Pat Tillman

Family members demand answers as inconsistencies mark various accounts of the killing of Army Ranger and former Arizona Cardinals defensive back in Afghanistan

BY DAVID ZUCCHINO

Los Angeles Times

Pat Tillman died in the dark between two black boulders, halfway up a canyon wall, just below the mud farmhouse of Zamir Jan. To Jan, Tillman was just another American stranger. But to millions of people a world away, the death of this man, who gave up a lucrative professional football contract to fight for his country, was an American tragedy.

At first, Pentagon officials said Tillman was killed by enemy fire.

A month later, they said it was friendly fire, triggered by an enemy ambush. Today, more than seven months after Tillman died, even that Pentagon conclusion is contradicted by Afghans who were there the night of April 22.

Afghan police and militia commanders here, along with local residents such as Jan, say U.S. Army Rangers overreacted to an explosion — either a land mine or roadside bomb — and fired wildly at Tillman and other Rangers. They say there is no evidence that insurgents opened fire in the remote canyon where Tillman was raked by gunfire from a section of his own Ranger platoon.

Tillman's parents say the military has deceived them and stonewalled their attempts to find out how their son died. While the Tillmans believe the Rangers who shot their son had been fired on by insurgents, they also say the Pentagon has tried to cover up deadly mistakes and negligence that night.

"I'm disgusted by things that have happened with the Pentagon since my son's death. I don't trust them one bit," Tillman's mother, Mary Tillman, said in a telephone interview last week from her home in San Jose, Calif.

Mary Tillman accused the military of hurting her son's uniform and gear in an attempt to cover up the circumstances of his death. She said her son Kevin, a Ranger in the same platoon as Pat Tillman that night, was ordered to guard the shooting scene but was not told until later that his brother had been killed.

It was not until weeks later, Mary Tillman said, that the family learned that Pat had been killed by his fellow Rangers. Pat and Kevin Tillman both were members of 2nd Platoon, A Company, 2nd Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment.

Tillman's father, Patrick Tillman, said in a separate interview Friday that the family has been frustrated by what he described as deception and inconsistent statements by the Pentagon.

"The investigation is a lie," he said. "It's insulting to Pat."

As a result of the family's complaints, an Army officer said Sunday, the Pentagon is reviewing its investigation of Tillman's death, completed in May. An official with U.S. Central Command said military legal officers are reviewing the investigative report because of "inconsistencies" in the official account. A Freedom of Information Act request filed July 6 by The Times, requesting the investigative report and other documents, has not been fulfilled.

On Monday, the Army announced it has opened a new investigation into Tillman's death.

Army officials said Tillman's family sought additional information about circumstances of his April 22 death, but the fundamental account of the battle in which he was killed is not being challenged.



Spec. Pat Tillman marches as he performs the honor of being the garrison bearer during graduation ceremonies Oct. 25, 2002, on Sand Hill at Fort Benning, Ga. Tillman, the former Arizona Cardinals star who walked away from a multimillion-dollar NFL contract to serve with the Army Rangers, was killed in Afghanistan by friendly fire.

"The family asked questions, and we're looking to get answers to the questions," said Army spokesman Paul Boyce.

Officials declined to be more specific. The Army's Special Operations Command, based at Fort Bragg, N.C., is conducting the investigation, said command spokeswoman Carol Darby.

The Pentagon has provided shifting and contradictory accounts of Tillman's death. Authorities first said he was killed by insurgents who had ambushed his patrol, triggering an intense firefight in which Tillman fired on the enemy.

A month later, on May 29, the military said Tillman died "as a probable result of friendly fire" from fellow Rangers during the chaos of a nighttime ambush by a dozen insurgents firing automatic rifles and mortars. The Pentagon said the new conclusion was reached after additional investigation, even though Rangers on the scene knew right away that Tillman had been killed by friendly fire.

On Friday, a spokesman for the Army Special Operations Command said the investigation had concluded that there had been an enemy ambush April 22.

"The information available to this command [from the theater investigation last May] indicates that enemy forces were part of the events that led to the death of

CPL Tillman," Lt. Col. Hans E. Bush said in an email statement.

In a two-part series, The Washington Post reported Sunday and Monday that Tillman "died unnecessarily after botched communications, a mistaken decision to split his platoon over the objections of its leader, and negligent shooting by

pumped-up young Rangers." The newspaper said its account was based on witness statements, e-mails, investigation findings and other documents.

The Post reported Monday that at least two low-ranking Rangers accepted administrative punishments, but said it could not determine what actions — if any — were taken against more senior officers.

The Associated Press reported Monday that no soldiers faced judicial action as a result of his death, but several were disciplined, according to Darby, spokeswoman for the Army's Special Operations Command.

One enlisted soldier faced formal administrative charges, and four more Rangers, including an officer, were transferred from the elite Ranger force to elsewhere in the Army. Two more officers were reprimanded, she said.

The military would not release additional details because the disciplinary actions

were administrative, Darby said.

Tillman, a four-year NFL defensive back, gave up a \$3.6 million contract with the Arizona Cardinals to volunteer as an Army Ranger. He survived a tour of duty in Iraq, only to die on a remote hillside here, three hours by donkey trail from the nearest town.

In interviews with the Los Angeles Times, two police security chiefs who investigated the incident, along with two commanders of the Afghan militia unit assigned to Tillman's patrol, said militiamen told them that a sudden explosion triggered long bursts of gunfire that night. They said either a land mine or roadside bomb exploded halfway up a mountain. It caused no injuries but seemed to confuse and alarm the Rangers, they said.

While insurgents may have set off the explosion, Afghan militiamen insisted there was no enemy gunfire or other attack in the canyon where Tillman died, said Karim Khan, the security chief for the Spera district. "It was just the Americans and the militiamen shooting at each other — just a terrible mistake," Khan said. — Khan's deputy, Yusuf Din, added: "There was an explosion, and the two sides thought it was a Taliban attack. It wasn't — it was just the two sides attacking each other."

The Tillmans said Kevin had made a pact with his brother never to speak to the media about their military service. The Post said Kevin was not asked by Ranger investigators to provide sworn statements.

The Post quoted military investigative accounts in which Rangers said they heard an explosion that they assumed to be a land mine or roadside bomb. The Rangers told investigators they heard no more rounds explode near them and thought they could see their attackers moving on the mountainside above them, the paper reported.

Tillman and several men from his section had moved toward the explosion to help the other group of Rangers. At the same time, the other group was moving away from the explosion, back toward Tillman.

They opened fire, not realizing they were shooting at their own men, The Post said.

Two commanders of the Afghan militia unit involved said militiamen told them immediately after the incident that Rangers opened fire in the dark shortly after the explosion. The commanders said some militiamen tried to get the Ranger commander to order the firing to cease, but could not make themselves understood.

The commanders spoke on condition of anonymity, saying they had been ordered by American commanders not to discuss the incident. A request to interview Rangers and militiamen at their base at a camp outside the Afghan city of Khost was denied by the U.S. military.

Earlier on April 22, Tillman's platoon had split into two sections after a Humvee broke down and had to be towed, according to a summary of a military investigation released May 29. Kevin Tillman was in the section that split off from his brother's unit. A request to interview the Ranger base company commander, under pressure from a faraway senior officer to get moving, had ordered the split.

Tillman's parents angrily reject allegations that there had been no enemy attack, saying that Kevin Tillman told them that his unit was ambushed. He was adamant that he had been fired on by insurgents, they said.

SEE TILLMAN ON PAGE 8

"I'm disgusted by things that have happened with the Pentagon since my son's death. I don't trust them one bit."

Mary Tillman

Pat Tillman's mother



Gen. John Abizaid

Abizaid: Role of Iraq troops may shift

Transition could lessen combat roles, up training of Iraqi security forces

BY BRADLEY GRAHAM
The Washington Post

CAMP AS SAYILYAH, Qatar
— Army Gen. John Abizaid, the commander of U.S. forces in the Persian Gulf region, raised the possibility Monday that U.S. forces in Iraq could start to be re-

shaped as early as next year to reduce the number of combat troops and concentrate on the development of Iraqi security forces.

Abizaid declined in an interview to set a timetable for the shift, saying it would depend on the outcome of national elections

in January and evidence that Iraqi forces could assume a greater share of combat operations against the country's entrenched insurgency.

This outlook, expressed by Abizaid and other senior U.S. commanders, comes in the face of a series of brazen attacks by insur-

gents intent on disrupting the elections and terrorizing Iraq's fledgling security services. The violence, together with a campaign of intimidation aimed at those associated with the new governing structures or with the Americans, has deepened perceptions of insecurity, particularly in areas heavily populated by Sunni Arabs. It also contributed to a Pentagon decision last week to boost the U.S. force to 150,000 troops.

While acknowledging concern about the performance of Iraqi forces and about heavy insurgent activity in such key cities as Mosul, Abizaid said he also saw reasons to be optimistic.

"What's encouraging to me is that despite the very high levels of intimidation, that there are plenty of people within the Sunni Arab community who are coming forward, both politically and militarily, to play a role in the future of their country," the general said.

Abizaid said the reshaping of the force would make combat operations by U.S. and other foreign troops "secondary to training effort." That would mean, among other changes, "more embedded trainers" and possibly a larger number of special operations forces in place of conventional ones, he said.

The multinational force, he added, would be smaller, more mobile and "more focused on presence than it is on conducting day-to-day combat operations," but it would remain available to back up Iraqi troops if needed.

"We can't predict what's going to happen after the elections," he said. "But if the circumstances are such that, as in Afghanistan, the political process leads to better security... and if the Iraqi security forces start to gel in terms of leadership and seasoning in important areas around the country — which I think will happen — then we can talk about reshaping our forces."

The performance of Iraqi forces under fire has been uneven, with many army and National Guard units tending to hold their ground but local police often proving little match for insurgents. Abizaid acknowledged that the homegrown forces generally "are not as mature as they need to be for the security environment that's going to exist in the next several months," which he said led to the increase in the U.S. force.

Much of the key now to strengthening Iraqi forces, he said, will be to develop leaders and fill in "mid-level" positions in the chains of command.

Abizaid admitted being especially worried about the situation in Mosul, Iraq's third-largest city, where most of the 6,000-member police force collapsed a month ago under attack and intimidation and where U.S. forces have remained hard-pressed to re-establish order.



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Report: CIA warns Iraq danger growing

Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — A classified cable sent by the Central Intelligence Agency's station chief in Baghdad has warned that the situation in Iraq is deteriorating and may not rebound any time soon, government officials told The New York Times.

The cable, sent late last month as the officer ended a yearlong tour, presented a bleak assessment on matters of politics, economics and security, the Times reported in its Tuesday editions.

Classified cable from Baghdad station chief said Iraqi government must assert authority

Officials reportedly described the two assessments as "mixed," saying that they did describe Iraq as having made important progress, particularly in terms of its political process, and credited Iraqis with being resilient.

But over all, the officials described the station chief's cable in particular as an unvar-

nished assessment of the difficulties ahead in Iraq. They told the Times that it warned that the security situation was likely to get worse, including more violence and sectarian clashes, unless there were marked improvements soon on the part of the Iraqi government, in terms of its ability to assert authority and to build the economy.

Together, the appraisals, which follow several other such warnings from officials in Washington and in the field, were much more pessimistic than the public picture being offered by the Bush administration, the officials told the paper.

The top American military commander in Iraq, Gen. George W. Casey Jr., reviewed the cable and initially offered no objections, the officials said.

One official said, however, that Casey may have voiced objections in recent days.



Pat Tillman Sr., father of Pat Tillman, speaks during a memorial service for Cpl. Tillman in San Jose, Calif., on May 3, 2004. Tillman was killed during a reaction to an ambush that resulted in friendly fire while serving in Afghanistan.

AP

Tillman: Confusion didn't end when the firing ceased

TILLMAN, FROM PAGE 6

The Pentagon's summary said an enemy ambush triggered an intense, 20-minute firefight. Ten to 12 insurgents attacked "from multiple locations over approximately 1 kilometer in very severe and constricted terrain with impaired light conditions," according to the account.

"Hearing the engagement, the other section of the platoon maneuvered to the location of the ambush and engaged in the fight," the summary said. A Ranger squad leader mistook a bearded Afghan militiaman standing next to Tillman for an insurgent and opened fire.

"Other members of the platoon, observing the direction of fire by the squad leader, oriented their fire in the same direction," the summary said.

Both Tillman and the Afghan were wounded, the summary said.

An Army statement said Tillman had "focused his efforts on elimination of enemy forces and the protection of his team members."

The military had no need to exaggerate Tillman's courage under fire. His self-sacrifice and devotion to duty was admired by millions of Americans after he volunteered for the Rangers following the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks. And, whatever the circumstances of his death, Tillman clearly exposed himself to mortal danger as he tried to save his men. He was awarded a posthumous Silver Star and Purple Heart and was promoted to corporal.

Tillman's patrol was taking part in Operation Mountain Storm to kill or capture suspected Taliban and al-Qaida fighters. An elite unit of Rangers and other U.S. Special Forces and CIA paramilitaries known as

Task Force Omaha, based outside Khost and accompanied by hand-picked Afghan militiamen, was concentrating on "high-value targets" along the border.

The region, about 40 miles southwest of Khost, is laced with insurgent infiltration routes from Pakistan, the U.S. military says.

Just across the border, in the lawless Pakistan territory known as Waziristan, Osama bin Laden and other senior al Qaeda leaders are believed to be hiding under the protection of Pushtun tribesmen.

Tillman had conducted previous patrols in the Spera district, a mountainous region dominated by conservative Pushtun tribesmen. In the village of Magar, he became known as the soldier who handed out small sums of cash — \$2 for children and \$10 for men — and small, hand-cranked radios.

"He was a good man. Everybody in our tribe liked him," said Walikha Khan, a leader of the Borekhen tribe in Magar, a hilltop hamlet near the canyon where Tillman died.

The night Tillman died, Zamir Jan said, he was saying evening prayers around 7:30 p.m. when he heard a distant explosion high up a canyon wall south of his mud-walled dwelling. Jan, a thin, white-bearded farmer who said he did not know his age, is the only resident of the Lake Gorge, a series of rocky canyons hugging the Pakistan border.

Shortly afterward, Jan said, he heard gunfire that continued for at least 20 min-

utes. Just after the shooting stopped, he said, a group of American soldiers broke down his door and stormed into his house. He said they searched the dwelling, destroyed his food supplies and accused Jan of setting the explosion.

Jan said he told the soldiers' Afghan interpreter that he knew nothing about the explosion. The soldiers responded by asking him for a mattress. They said they needed it for a badly wounded American soldier outside.

Jan said he learned later that the soldier bleeding in the dark between two boulders on a ridge just below his house was a famous American football player.

Later that night, he said, an American military helicopter landed in the streambed and evacuated Tillman's body.

Police chief Khan and his deputy, Din, said they were eating a dinner of flatbread and chicken at the tiny stone district police station a few miles from the canyon that evening. Hearing an explosion, they gathered up several policemen and set out in four-wheel drive vehicle to investigate.

"This is my district, and it's my responsibility to investigate whenever there's a gun fire," Khan said.

When they reached the canyon, the two men said, they were intercepted by American soldiers who refused to answer questions or allow them to speak to Afghan militiamen.

Early the next morning, Khan said, he and his men returned to the canyon and

were able to question militiamen who had witnessed the shooting.

"They said the militiamen understood what was happening," Khan said. "They were so worried about being attacked by the Taliban that they over-reacted."

The explosion, which sent rocks tumbling down the mountainside in the dark, created a series of confusing echoes, Din said. Both Ranger units "thought the Taliban or al Qaeda had opened fire on them," he said.

Tillman died at age 27 without having explained publicly why he abandoned a football career in his athletic prime to take a dangerous and demanding job that paid roughly \$20,000 a year. He resolutely refused all publicity.

Friends and fellow athletes told reporters at the time that Tillman did not want to be seen as capitalizing on his fame. They said he was genuinely moved by the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks and wanted to make a personal commitment to defending America.

Tillman did speak to a television interviewer the day after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks. "My grandfather was at Pearl Harbor, and a lot of my family has gone and fought in wars," he said.

"And I haven't really done a damn thing as far as laying myself on the line like that."

More than seven months after his death, his mother said she and her husband are determined to pursue the truth about his final hours.

"The military thinks we'll just accept their story," she said.

"They obviously don't know this family."

The Associated Press contributed to this report.

"[The Americans] were so worried about being attacked by the Taliban that they over-reacted."

Walikha Khan
Afghan tribal leader

IN THE STATES

House agrees to vote on intelligence bill

BY JESSE J. HOLLAND

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Republican-controlled House agreed Tuesday to vote to overhaul the nation's intelligence agencies now that President Bush and House Armed Services chairman Duncan Hunter have endorsed a provision guaranteeing battlefield commanders access to top-secret information.

A vote could come late Tuesday, House Intelligence chairman Pete

Hoekstra, R-Mich., said, after getting the approval of the majority of House Republicans at a morning meeting.

While several House Republicans still oppose the compromise version of the bill, Hoekstra is confident the legislation will win the approval of a majority of the House GOP — a condition set by House Speaker Dennis Hastert, R-Ill.

Bush has called on Congress for months to pass legislation implementing the Sept. 11 commission's

recommendations to protect the nation from terrorists. But House GOP leaders have been holding up the bill because of Hunter's concerns that it might interfere with the military's ability to get vital information.

But Hunter now supports it because House-Senate negotiators added language to ensure that Defense Department officials would have priority in battlefield areas over the nation's spy satellites and other intelligence equipment.

The California congressman

had worried that a new national intelligence director, a position the legislation would create to coordinate spy agencies, would have been able to insert himself into the chain of command from the president to the commanders in the field.

Lawmakers from both parties expect the bill to pass and said its reforms were long overdue.

"We have not in 50 years changed the intelligence system. We've never walked away from the Cold War model," Sen. Jay

Rockefeller of West Virginia, the ranking Democrat on the Senate Intelligence Committee, said Tuesday on CBS' "The Early Show."

"We now have a bill which will pass both houses, I hope, that will change the intelligence system and head it in the right direction."

Even if some Republicans oppose the bill, supporters in the House and Senate say they have enough votes to pass the legislation. The legislation also would cement into law the existence of a national counterintelligence center to coordinate the nation's fight against terrorism.

WTC attacks ruled separate for insurance

BY LARRY NEUMEISTER

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — The Sept. 11 attack on the World Trade Center was two separate occurrences for insurance purposes, a federal jury decided, meaning lessholder Larry Silverstein stands to collect up to \$4.6 billion.

The trial, which ended after 11 days of deliberations, was the first in which jurors were asked to decide whether the terrorist attack that killed 2,749 people could be considered two attacks since two planes hit two separate towers.

The verdict Monday in U.S. District Court

in Manhattan was the latest twist in Silverstein's efforts to file separate claims for \$7 billion, or two full payouts under the \$3.5 billion worth of insurance coverage he took out on the trade center complex.

Silverstein lost a first trial on the issue earlier this year, but a separate jury said Monday that Silverstein is entitled to collect a double payout from nine insurers who accounted for \$1.1 billion of the overall coverage.

In the earlier trial, the jury rejected Silverstein's contention that an insurance document defining the attack as one event did not bind some of the 24 insurance companies holding the bulk of the coverage.

Silverstein still must go to a three-person appraisal panel to collect the money. The insurers are expected to appeal the decision.

In a statement, Silverstein said he was thrilled with the verdict and cast it as a victory for all New Yorkers because it secures additional money to rebuild the trade center complex.

The insurance companies involved in the case were: Travelers Indemnity Co., Industrial Risk Insurers, Royal Indemnity Co., Allianz Insurance Co., Tokio Marine and Fire Insurance Co., Twin City Fire Insurance Co., Tig Insurance Co., Westfield WTC LLC and Zurich American Insurance Co.

Europe flu doses OK'd

WASHINGTON — The government said Tuesday that flu vaccine manufactured in Germany was safe enough to be used in the United States and that as many as 4 million doses would be available to alleviate U.S. shortages.

Health and Human Services Secretary Tommy Thompson said the government was immediately buying 1.2 million doses of the vaccine, called Fluaxix, which will be available this month, and said British manufacturer GlaxoSmithKline had agreed to make about 3 million more doses available later.

From The Associated Press

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Survivors mark anniversary of attack on Pearl Harbor

BY JAYMES SONG
The Associated Press

PEARL HARBOR, Hawaii — Al Goodyear was standing on a signal bridge on the starboard side of the USS Oklahoma in 1941 when bombs started falling from the sky and torpedoes zoned in. Explosions, screams, chaos and gunfire shattered the calm morning of that Dec. 7, and within 12 minutes, the massive battleship rolled over and capsized, trapping hundreds of men below decks.

Sixty-three years later, Goodyear can still hear their cries and crying for help.

Goodyear, 86, and a dwindling number of survivors returned to the site of their most haunting memories to honor the 429 men from the Oklahoma and nearly 2,000 others who died in the Japanese sneak attack that plunged the United States into World War II.

"There's a great bond between us," Goodyear said.

Goodyear was a 23-year-old petty officer in 1941 whose life was saved when he jumped into the burning waters of the harbor, someone threw him a line from the USS Maryland and he was able to pull himself up.

The USS Oklahoma suffered the second-highest number of Pearl Harbor casualties behind the USS Arizona, where most of its 1,177 killed crewmen remain entombed after the ship sank.

"I could see the torpedo coming and I was yelling at the gunners to shoot the bastard down," said Goodyear, of Casa Grande, Ariz.

The anniversary was marked with simultaneous ceremonies Tuesday aboard the USS Arizona Memorial above that sunken battleship, and on shore. Each ceremony featured a moment of silence at 7:55 a.m. — the minute the attack started.

Goodyear, head of the USS Oklahoma Survivors Association, joined four other survivors and



After Monday's dedication ceremony for the new exhibit for the USS Oklahoma at the USS Arizona Memorial Museum in Pearl Harbor, Paul Goodyear, 86, of Casa Grande, Ariz., shows where he was stationed as a signalman aboard the USS Oklahoma on Dec. 7, 1941. The USS Oklahoma, hit by as many as nine Japanese torpedoes that morning, capsized and sank.

about two dozen friends and family Monday evening for the unveiling of a permanent exhibit on the Oklahoma.

Although they were pleased with the small exhibit in the Arizona museum, survivors of the USS Oklahoma are pressing for a permanent memorial.

"I've written every congressman," said George Brown, 83. "I'll do it 'til I ever see it."

Goodyear said he also wants the USS Arizona Memorial's name changed to the Pearl Harbor Memorial or the Memorial of the Pacific.

"The kids on the Arizona died one of the most merciful deaths known to man, whereas the kids on the Oklahoma suffered one of the most horrible, traumatic demises known to man and yet no one knows the Oklahoma was here," he said. "They suffered casualties and they should be remembered, but they were there

ships there, too, and that's our beef."

The National Park Service, which operates the Arizona Memorial, said it is considering changing the name and broadening the museum's scope.

When it sank, the Oklahoma was anchored off Ford Island on Battleship Row in the middle of the harbor, next to the USS Maryland. The Oklahoma took the brunt of the torpedoes, leaving the Maryland relatively intact.

The Oklahoma was refloated in 1943 and sold for scrap after the war, but it sank in the Pacific while being towed to California.

Japan's surprise attack on Pearl Harbor and other military bases on Oahu lasted two hours. Twenty-one ships were heavily damaged, and 320 aircraft were damaged or destroyed. In all, about 2,390 people were killed and about 1,178 were wounded, according to the National Park Service, which maintains the Arizona site.

High court mulls wine issue

BY HOPE YEN
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — State laws barring people from buying wine directly from out-of-state suppliers should be struck down as unconstitutional, the Supreme Court was told Tuesday, as it heard arguments in a case that could lead to sweeping changes on how alcoholic beverages are regulated and sold.

Justices heard arguments in three appeals involving laws in Michigan and New York that allow direct interstate, but not out-of-state, shipments. The dispute pits regulators and wholesalers against out-of-state wineries that want to sell alcohol to consumers, mostly over the Internet or by phone.

"A state power over alcohol has ebbed and flowed over the years, but one principle has remained constant: States may regulate alcohol by only one set of rules," said Clint Bolick, who represents a family-run winery in Virginia that says the laws are discriminatory.

Michigan solicitor general Thomas I. Casey, who says states must control the distribution of alcohol as they see fit to protect minors, disagreed. "There are substantial differences between policing in-state wineries and those out of state."

Several justices appeared troubled by the notion of unequal treatment, although they also seemed uncertain about whether overturning state laws that have been in place since Prohibition was the solution.

The case involves a clash between two parts of the Constitution, with lower courts divided

over which section should hold sway.

On one side is the 21st Amendment, which ended Prohibition in 1933 and explicitly granted states authority to regulate alcohol sales. Twenty-four states have laws that generally require outside wineries to sell their products through licensed wholesalers in the state. Michigan and New York allow in-state Internet or telephone sales of alcoholic beverages. Some other states allow such sales, others do not.

The Constitution also implicitly prohibits states from passing laws that discriminate against out-of-state businesses. That provision has been embraced by wine makers who hope to reach faraway customers looking for favorite U.S. vintages unavailable in their home states.

While the 2nd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals sided with New York in upholding the state restrictions, the 6th Circuit, based in Cincinnati, struck down Michigan's laws as unconstitutional protectionism.

The stakes are high in the \$21.6 billion wine industry. States collect millions of dollars in alcohol taxes and claim the established system helps stem fraud and underage drinking. They argue they have less enforcement power over out-of-state sellers who aren't licensed.

Since 1980, the number of wineries has quadrupled nationally to more than 3,700 this year, and their survival depends on state laws that give them a fair shake, the National Association of American Wineries argues in a friend-of-the-court filing.

Arson ruled as cause in some Maryland house fires

INDIAN HELED, Md. — Investigators combed through the rubble of dozens of torched houses Tuesday looking for evidence of arson in a push to subdivide under construction near a nature preserve. The FBI said it would look into ecoterrorism as a possible motive.

Some \$10 million in damage was done as 41 homes burned Monday at the Hunters Brooke subdivision, about 25 miles south of Washington.

Environmental and community groups tried to block the development in a lawsuit last year that claimed it would hurt one of the nation's last undisturbed forested areas.

Investigators confirmed arson caused the fires in at least four homes, said Faron Taylor, a deputy state fire marshal.

From The Associated Press

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Include a return mailing address, and Santa will respond with a personalized postcard in the mail. Children's names may also appear in the "Notes from the North Pole" section of the December edition of STARS AND STRIPES on the December 20th & 21st. Wishlists must be emailed before December 15th.

Ohio vote recount goes on

COLUMBUS, Ohio — While Ohio has certified a 2 percentage-point election victory for President Bush, scrutiny of the vote was expected to continue for several more days. Independent candidates were prepared to demand recounts in all 88 counties Tuesday, action that election boards say they're ready for but don't believe is necessary.

sary.

Secretary of State Kenneth Blackwell certified Bush as the winner Monday based on official results from county election boards, with the final tally of 2.86 million votes for the Republican, or about 51 percent of the vote, and 2.74 million or 49 percent for Democrat John Kerry.

From wire reports

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IN THE WORLD

Karzai sworn in as Afghan president

BY STEPHEN GRAHAM

The Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan — Afghan President Hamid Karzai took the helm Tuesday of a country whose revival is threatened by a surging drug trade and a stubbornly persistent Taliban insurgency, pledging in his inaugural address to bring stability and prosperity, even as rebels launched a fresh wave of deadly attacks near the Pakistani border.

With the speeches over and foreign dignitaries departing his solemn swearing-in ceremony, the affable Karzai will come under growing pressure to heal ethnic divisions and repair this war-ravaged country's decrepit infrastructure, challenges that promise to linger throughout his five-year mandate.

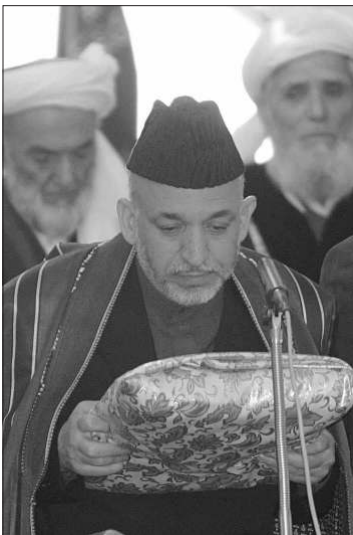
Wearing his trademark green robe and lambskin hat and with his right hand on a copy of Islam's holy book, the Quran, Karzai appeared jittery as he repeated an oath of allegiance read to him by Afghanistan's white-bearded chief justice.

Still, he recovered his poise in a confident speech before 600 guests, including U.S. Vice President Dick Cheney and Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld, outlining his agenda to meet ordinary Afghans' sky-high expectations.

He singled out America — which still has 18,000 troops stationed in Afghanistan and is providing billions in other aid — for particular thanks, while underlining the continued need of international support.

"Our fight against terrorism is not yet over," he said, warning of a deadly nexus also trafficking in "A decisive victory over terrorism requires serious and continuous cooperation at regional and international levels."

Afghan and international forces keen to protect Karzai's inauguration mounted their biggest security operation since the Oct. 9



Afghan President Hamid Karzai holds the Quran as he is sworn in as Afghanistan's first popularly elected president at a ceremony in Kabul's Presidential Palace on Tuesday.

election that gave him a landslide victory. Still, overnight assaults near the Pakistani frontier that left 12 dead provided a reminder of threats to the country's stability.

Dozens of suspected Taliban rebels armed with assault rifles and rockets attacked an Afghan military base in Khost province,

sparking a fire-fight that left four Afghan soldiers and at least six militants dead, an Afghan commander said.

Also in Khost, insurgents opened fire before dawn on Tuesday on a U.S. patrol, which shot back and killed two of the assailants, U.S. spokesman Maj. Mark McCann said. No Americans

were reported hurt.

Efforts by militants to launch a rocket toward Kabul on Monday evening, however, were less successful, a NATO spokesman said. The rocket landed harmlessly on a cattle farm outside the city limits.

Cheney, the most senior American official to visit Afghanistan since the Taliban were ousted six years ago, emerged from brief talks with Karzai to laud him as a wise leader and an admired international statesman.

Later, he said the establishment of a democracy in Kabul was necessary to Afghanistan's "basic, fundamental transformation."

"It has to happen, if you will, if we're going to win the war on terrorism," Cheney said on NBC's "Today" show. "Democracies form people who 'are focused on their own lives and focused on building a free society.'"

Rumsfeld, who like Cheney left Afghanistan on Tuesday evening, cautioned that the military mission here is not over.

"There are still groups, extremists, that would like to take this country back — the Taliban, the al-Qaida — and use it for a base for terrorist activities around the world as they did on 9/11," Rumsfeld told a group of special forces soldiers at Bagram Air Base, north of Kabul. "But it's not going to happen."

The vice president recounted the role of U.S. forces in destroying the Taliban regime, which had harbored the al-Qaida terrorist network blamed for the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks.

"The dictatorship that harbored the most vicious terrorist network in history is now history," Cheney said.

He cautioned that work remains to be done.

"Freedom still has enemies here in Afghanistan, and you are here to make those enemies miserable," he said.

Madrid bombing suspect

MADRID, Spain — Spain said Tuesday that Italy has handed over Egyptian Rabei Osman Ahmed, a key suspect in the Madrid train bombings.

Osman Ahmed was arrested in Milan in June after police overheard him allegedly boasting about his role in planning the Madrid bombings and referring to another imminent attack. The Italian Supreme Court agreed last week to extradite him.

The April 3 Madrid attack killed 191 people and wounded more than 1,500. Spanish Judge Juan del Olmo requested Osman Ahmed's extradition soon after he was arrested, saying that while living in Madrid the suspect "managed to take control of a small group of Arab followers, all of them with extremist Islamic ideology, supporters of jihad and Osama bin Laden."

Naples crime sweep

NAPLES, Italy — Italian police raided scores of homes in the Naples area on Tuesday and arrested 52 suspected mobsters.

The arrests were carried out in a series of raids that started before dawn and continued through the morning, officials in Naples said. About 1,500 police, as well as helicopters, bomb-sniffing dog units and bomb disposal experts, took part. Officials said the operation was a major setback to the Naples-based Camorra organized crime syndicate.

Saudi consulate attack

JIDDAH, Saudi Arabia — Islamic militants who shot their way into the heavily fortified U.S. Consulate, killing five employees, clearly had studied how cars entered the compound, the U.S. ambassador said Tuesday, praising actions that stopped the assault but acknowledging room for improvement.

Ambassador James C. Oberweiser thanked Saudi forces for "freeing the compound" and said Marine guards inside performed their duty heroically. Saudi officials, meanwhile, said four assailants were Saudis and that a fifth person killed hadn't yet been identified.

From wire reports

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Group probes wrong target

I'm writing in regards to the article titled "Group probes DOD for stunt gun use on detainees," (Dec. 1). The article was about a request for information by Amnesty International for an investigation into whether the Army was violating human rights by using taser guns.

I'm tired of human rights organizations always blaming the United States for anything and everything, especially the organizations that originate in the States. I served in the Army, and I was in Iraq in March 2003 until March 2004. I know what these soldiers are going through. People back home, instead of showing support for our troops in these tough times want to investigate everything, and even try to send some soldiers to prison.

If you ask me, that is like getting stabbed in the back by the same people the soldiers are fighting for. Why don't they investigate human rights by putting down roadside bombs and killing our soldiers and civilians. I never heard of them saying anything of that nature.

It is just incomprehensible how the same people soldiers are risking their lives for, and dying for, are trying to bring them down instead of supporting them.

Armando Granados
Camp Anacosta, Iraq

ACLU has lost perspective

I agree with the writer of the Dec. 3 letter "Politics aside, respect ACLU" that the American Civil Liberties Union has done no wrong in advocating the discontinuation of federal funding of the Boy Scouts of America. However, the writer of the letter, however, that both the writer and the ACLU have lost the true perspective of the Founding Fathers on separation of church and state.

First, the Constitution states in the First Amendment: "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof." Many of America's earliest settlers had fled Europe under religious persecution from state churches there, and the Founding Fathers wished to avoid the danger of the United States having an established, government-sanctioned church that allowed no competition. Thankfully, their wishes in this regard have been fulfilled so far.

The second part of the amendment says that the government has no right to interfere with the free exercise of religion. The Founding Fathers believed that religion was a matter of the conscience and therefore each person should be able to worship as he or she believed was right without government prohibitions.

Note that nowhere in the First Amendment or in the rest of the Constitution does one find the phrase "separation of church and state" or anything to prohibit religious displays in public places (such as the Ten Commandments), laws with religious con-

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ent, practice of religion in public areas (school), etc.

The founders wanted chiefly to keep government from interfering in religion, not to create an unbridgeable chasm between the two. I hope that the ACLU will devote more time to studying the true intent of the Constitution and the Founding Fathers.

Matthew Brown
Yongsan, South Korea

Arafat's way paved in blood

In response to the letter "Arafat legacy not yet realized," (Dec. 1), I don't know where the writer is getting his information about the late Yasser Arafat, but Arafat orchestrated hijackings, hostage taking, suicide bombings, and he murdered children.

This "great" leader the writer is touting has killed many, to include U.S. citizens. A leader he may be to some people, but he seems to have paved his way with lies and blood.

Spencer G. Stone
Udell Air Base, Qatar

Attacks on 'Mortartville'

I am writing in response to the letter "Mortartville" is a misnomer," (Dec. 2). In my opinion, the writer just disrespected those who have been affected by the attacks and the families and friends who have dealt with the loss of loved ones on Logistics Support Area Anacosta/Bald Air Base. According to www.webster.com the definitions of the following words are:

■ Barrage — artillery fire laid on a line called to friendly troops to screen and protect them.

■ Attack — to set upon or work against forcefully.

The original story on Oct. 18 (Midwest edition) — "Daily attacks on base dub it 'Mortartville'" — was simply trying to inform people of the constant threat that Anacosta/Bald is under. Whether the attacks miss the base or not, there is still the threat, and we still have airmen and soldiers getting killed or disemboweled by the attacks. Maybe the next time one of our

brothers or sisters dies due to these "one to two rounds," the writer would like to be the one consoling the family members left behind, and he could quote his own writing: "we have had some casualties, but this is what happens in situations like this."

The writer also stated, "compared to other bases in Iraq, this is very low key." He should check his facts, because it is a fact, that Anacosta/Bald is the most frequently attacked base not only in Iraq, but the entire area of responsibility as reported by www.globalsecurity.org.

Air Force Staff Sgt. Jason M.J. Stewart
Bald Air Base, Iraq

Kuwait complaints unfounded

During the past nine months of my deployment in Iraq, I have read by many copies of Stars and Stripes as I could get my hands on. In that time, I have been disgusted by the many letters by soldiers in Kuwait complaining how rough they have it.

"Locked down in Kuwait" (Nov. 25) was the last straw. What the writer and past writers fail to recognize is that they are not on a vacation. In cases they have been at their leave and earning statements later, they are receiving combat zone pay and benefits. Just a few hundred miles north of them, the front-line soldiers are not worried about not being allowed to eat at McDonald's, they are worried about whether they will live to eat another meal.

I have been to camps in Kuwait, and everyone that I have passed through at least one major franchised restaurant. At forward operating bases in Iraq, we consider ourselves lucky to get one or two hot meals a day, even when it was "cooked" in a mobile kitchen trailer.

If the letter writer wants to see what Kuwait has to offer, I suggest he plan a vacation there after his deployment. Until then, he should be thankful for receiving all of his combat zone benefits, while not having to worry about daily mortar and rocket attacks, roadside bombs, vehicle borne bombs, and insurgent ambushes.

Sgt. Matt Cellura
Baghdad

Thanks to the USO

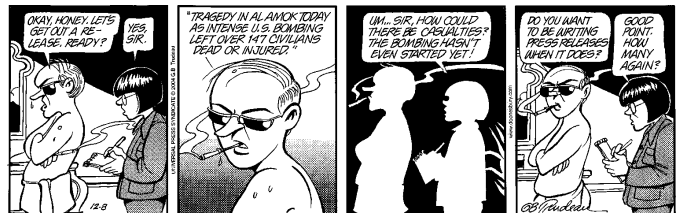
I would like to thank the United Service Organizations in Hanau, Germany, for its hospitality over Thanksgiving. It put on a spread that was truly amazing. They invited the local community to enjoy this feast. A large portion of my company went and we were amazed at the amount of food prepared for us. Not to mention how good it was.

The USO said it was to thank us for the job that we do. I would like to say thank you to it for the job it does for us. I am huge supporter of the USO and have been on many of the trips that they have sponsored. Thanks to them I have seen many places in Europe.

Again, thank you USO for the all that you do. I am a service member who truly appreciates it.

Sgt. 1st Class Michael A. Fierro
Hanau, Germany

Doonesbury



BY GARRY TRUDEAU

OPINION

What strengthens parties weakens process

The more the academics and analysts explore the entrails of last month's election, the clearer and simpler the lesson becomes. As the Clinton folks might put it, "it's the partisanship, stupid."

David Broder

Democrats did a first-class job of mobilizing their supporters and bringing them to the polls. But Republicans did an even better job, and that is essentially why they won.

The anatomy of the Nov. 2 voting is intriguing in itself, but its implications for the future of politics and government are even more important. It signals a protracted period of two-party competition and means that Republicans and Democrats alike will face intense pressure to keep their coalitions intact.

Democrats, who came out on the short end of the 51-48 percent presidential popular vote and also lost seats for the second election in a row in both the House and Senate, cannot afford any more defections. Losses among women, minorities and what remains of their Southern base would make the task of a comeback all the more daunting.

It surely was not a coincidence that President Bush began taking steps to split that Democratic coalition with his very first appointments to his second-term administration: Condoleezza Rice, a black woman with Southern roots and a California connection, to run the State Department; Margaret Spellings, another woman and a Texan, to run the

Department of Education; and two high-profile Hispanics, Alberto Gonzales and Carlos Gutierrez, to lead the Justice and Commerce departments, respectively.

But it is not only Democrats who have to worry about coalition-maintenance. Republicans and Bush in particular are equally dependent on keeping the flock intact. Bush did not beat John Kerry among independents. Kerry won almost 40 out of 10 Democratic votes and prevailed narrowly among independents. Bush won only by turning out massive numbers of Republicans and capturing more than 9 out of 10 of their votes.

What was true of Kerry and Bush applied almost equally to the races for the Senate, the House and governorships. ... House Republican candidates received more than 8 of 10 Republican votes, while Democratic candidates received 3 of 4 Democratic votes. It was not surprising that House Speaker Dennis Hastert did not want to let Democratic lawmakers pass the president's intelligence reorganization plan over the opposition of many Republicans. To do so would alienate him from his flock, and perhaps put some of them at risk with their voters.

All this is a far cry from the pattern of government and politics with which we became familiar during the Cold War. As John Kenneth White of Catholic University points out in one of the clearest and most succinct of the many post-election analyses that have crossed my desk, from 1952 through 1988, Republicans won the White House seven of 10 times, but rarely were able to disturb Democratic control of Congress.

From Dwight Eisenhower through the first President Bush, the voting public generally trusted Republicans to manage international affairs, keep the communists at bay, assure a strong defense and run the economy. Democrats in Congress were preferred



to look after the down-home concerns, such as Social Security, Medicare, education and the rest.

But that pattern of divided government has been decisively broken. ... Part of the story is the change in the South, where conservative Democrats once prevailed. Now, their House and Senate seats are occupied by Republicans.

But partisans on both sides in other regions are also recognizing the genuine differences between Republicans and Democrats and are choosing sides accordingly. Some of those differences are ideological.

Some are cultural, including the issues of faith and religion, which drew so much atten-

tion in the immediate aftermath of the election.

But the overwhelming factor, the one that ties it all together, is the simple pull of partisan allegiance — the hold that each of the parties exerts on its own followers.

Where there is strong partisanship in the electorate, White reminds us, we are likely to see partisanship in government as well. "The significance of party to the 2004 vote means that compromise between the two parties-in-government is unlikely," White writes.

Keep that in mind when the next Congress begins.

David Broder is a member of Washington Post Writers Group.

Insurgents seemingly unaffected by troop levels

BY RICHARD HART SINNREICH

Gradualism rarely is a productive way to apply military power. War, as theorist Carl von Clausewitz reminded us, is just the application of force against an unresisting object. Enemies adapt, and piecemealing combat power allows them that much more freedom to do it.

All of which is relevant to Iraq troop levels — which, the Pentagon announced last week, will climb for the next few months to 150,000, the highest level since the war began. Only about 1,500 U.S. troops not already scheduled to deploy. The rest of the increase will come from extending the tours of the units the new deployments were intended to replace.

That's likely to arouse justifiable unhappiness among affected soldiers and their families. For all the benefits of unit rotation, raising expectations only to shatter them isn't one. As many have noted, the human burdens of this war are being borne by a small number of our citizens in and out of uniform. Overstraining their undoubted dedication isn't wise.

But the broader question is what, in a military sense, 12,000 more troops for a few months will buy us. In that connection, recent trends are anything but encouraging.

This year alone U.S. troop levels in Iraq rose from 115,000 in February, to 130,000 in March, to 138,000 in May, to 140,000 in July, before dipping to 138,000 in September. During the same period, insurgent attacks on coalition forces, never mind Iraqis, rose from around 400 a month to 2,400.

That's an ominous correlation. It suggests that the insurgents have been able not only to withstand incremental U.S. troop increases but also to expand their operations significantly despite them.

There's no obvious reason to expect that another marginal troop increase will reverse that pattern. On the contrary, official announcement of the increase is merely a measure to dampen violence in advance of January's scheduled election offers the insurgents every incentive to ride it out.

Given the overall scarcity of coalition forces in relation to Iraq's populated geography, that shouldn't be too difficult. From the outset, the military problem in Iraq has never been insufficient troops to defeat the enemy in battle, but rather insufficient troops to secure what they've won.

Now that we've belatedly decided to clear the insurgents from urban strongholds such as Samarra and Fallujah rather than hoping they would disarm, the problem is likely to mount. Each local success implies a subsequent requirement to secure the cleared lo-

cality, and troops committed to such occupation can't also continue to attack.

Nor, apparently, can we count on Iraq's fledgling security forces to bail us out. Even the most encouraging reports of their performance confirm that their reliability and effectiveness depend entirely on their continued integration with better-equipped, trained and led coalition forces. Turning cleared areas over to them lock, stock and barrel isn't feasible yet.

Meanwhile ... all indications are that January may well see the departure or reduction of some current allied contingents. Presuming that these cutbacks would not include our British allies, the military consequences would be relatively modest, however uncomfortable the political ramifications. But they certainly wouldn't help.

All of which suggests that, as has been

true from the first day of the invasion, this is America's war to win or lose. Barring an unlikely change of heart by those with little reason to have one, we had better start thinking seriously about what it will take to win it.

The odds are that continued gradualism won't. The temptation is to blame it on politicians. ... But that doesn't excuse military commanders who should know better and who repeatedly have insisted that they have all the troops they need even as events just as repeatedly have proved otherwise. A brand new lieutenant would blush at so consistent a pattern of military misjudgment.

That also happened 40 years ago, and we're still paying the price. Even the most stubborn leaders should be reluctant to risk making the same mistake again.

Richard Hart Sinnreich writes about military affairs for the *Lawton, Okla., Sunday Constitution*. This column first appeared in *The Washington Post*.

Mallard Fillmore

BY BRUCE TINSLEY



Pair kidnapped

PA PHILADELPHIA — Two people kidnapped a woman and her 3-year-old daughter in Philadelphia during an attempt to collect a \$4,000 debt. The man who owed the money was not at home when the pair showed up about 12:30 a.m., so they kidnapped the girl and her 29-year-old mother, police said.

Police arrested a 30-year-old man who was trying to collect a \$4,000 ransom being offered by undercover officers. The girl and her mother were not found.

During the search, police spotted a car that looked like the one used by the kidnappers and tried to pull it over, leading to a chase, crash and shootout. It turned out that the car was not the one used in the kidnapping.

The man involved in the shootout died at a hospital.

Florida ballot review

FL MIAMI — A newspaper's review of ballots cast in three north Florida counties where registered Democrats heavily outnumber Republicans showed just what officials reported. The counties' voters did on Election Day as they often do, voting for a Republican for president.

The Miami Herald review goes against Internet-fed rumors questioning whether there was a conspiracy against Sen. John Kerry in those counties.

Kerry won in much of South Florida, where voters vote on touch-screen machines that can't be checked.

Reporters for the newspaper went over more than 17,000 optical scan ballots cast in three rural counties mentioned by doubters: Suwannee, Lafayette and Union. All three are overwhelmingly Democratic in registration, but chose President Bush.

Teen assaulted

MA BOSTON — Boston police said a 17-year-old girl who was waiting at an MBTA station was forced by a male friend to go to the basement of a nearby building, where she was sexually assaulted at gunpoint by at least 10 young men, some of whom she knew from school.

Police said the victim was standing at the Jackson Square stop in the Jamaica Plain neighborhood about 6 p.m. when she was forced to go to a nearby building.

At the time of the attack, the girl was visiting the area from another neighborhood in Boston. Her mother called police shortly after the girl arrived home.

Ford said police were investigating whether the attackers were part of a street gang, or if the attack was part of an initiation rite.

Drinking in Mexico

TX EL PASO — Minors headed to Mexico for a night of drinking could be turned away at the border if El Paso city officials have their way.

The City Council will ask the Legislature in its January session to approve a proposed measure allowing police to stop people younger than 18. While the aim is to stem teen drinking, critics say

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

such a law would trample civil rights and may not do much good.

Crossing the Rio Grande into Juarez — where the drinking age is 18 and bartenders are not known for checking identification — has become a rite of passage. It's the same in Brownsville, Laredo and Eagle Pass, as well as most towns along the nation's 2,000-mile border with Mexico.

While police have long been aware of the problem, they've had trouble stopping it, even with officers stationed at border bridges.

Under the proposal placed on the city's legislative agenda, officers statewide would be able to turn away minors who don't have permission to cross from a parent or guardian.

The American Civil Liberties Union is concerned the law would create a presumption of guilt when no crime is committed.

Surplus ideas

VA RICHMOND — Laggard behind their counterparts in the private sector, state government workers want a piece of a budget surplus that will likely total \$1 billion.

"An across-the-board salary increase of at least 6 percent is needed to help close the growing gap in salaries between the commonwealth and the private sector, and federal and local governments," the 18,000-member Virginia Governmental Employees' Association said.

The principal lobbying organization for state employees said the proposed pay raise for the 100,000-member work force is at the top of its wish list for the General Assembly's election-year session that will open Jan. 12.

Gov. Mark R. Warner and the candidates are vying to succeed him are suggesting putting part of the surplus into the cash-strapped road program. Candidates for the House of Delegates, which is up for re-election, also are urging more spending on transportation.

DNA convicts inmate

NY NEW YORK — A DNA sample taken from a man in prison for burglary led to his conviction in a 1993 rape on Thursday — nine years after the victim died of natural causes.

Michael Shaw, 43, faces up to 25 years in prison when he is sentenced Dec. 20.

DNA is now routinely taken from all convicted felons and stored in statewide databases. Shaw's sample — taken in 1999 when he was in prison on a burglary charge — was matched against a database of DNA from unsolved crimes, and technicians found a match with DNA from the 1993 rape.

On Dec. 17, 2002 — when Shaw was to have been released from prison — detectives arrested him.

"They took my DNA three years ago, and now you come after me?" Assistant District Attorney Melissa Mourges quoted Shaw as complaining.

Prosecutors said the victim, a 44-year-old mother of two boys, was attacked in a building where she worked in a garment factory owned by the attacker, took about \$100 and her jewelry, cut her leg and raped her. She died in 1995.

Passing on costs

KY FRANKFORT — Boaters will have to pay \$3 a day to use launch ramps at lakes in state parks beginning Jan. 1. The fees, to be collected at 14 lakes by the state parks department, will pay for ramp maintenance and help buy land for the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources.

City nixes transit hike

PA PHILADELPHIA — The city overruled plans by the Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority to make subway and bus rides the most expensive in the nation. The increase could still be implemented if the SEPTA board can override the veto by the city's two appointees. Under the plan, cash fares would jump from \$2 to \$3 to help close a \$62 million budget deficit.

School consolidation

VA STAUNTON — State officials released a plan to bring Virginia's schools for the deaf and the blind to a single site. The General Assembly requested the report on how to consolidate the Staunton and Hampton campuses to save money. The report did not suggest a new location but said it must be centrally located if approved.



Instant applesauce

An official inspects an accident site about two miles west of Casselton, N.D., along Interstate 94. A trucker hauling a load of apples rolled the vehicle while heading east along the highway.



Tying up loose ends

JoAnna Shumate, with Charleston's Office of Cultural Affairs, makes a Christmas bow on a stage at Marion Square in downtown Charleston, S.C., in preparation for some Christmas festivities.



Holiday lights

Fireworks explode behind the Arkansas State Capitol, seen decorated with Christmas lights, during the annual lighting of the holiday lights at the Capitol in Little Rock, Ark.



Skiing Santas in a row

Santas showed up in Santa outfits to earn a free day of skiing during the 5th annual Santa ski event.

Skating Santas ride the chair lift at Sunday River ski resort in Newry, Maine. Close to 200 skiing and snowboarding enthusiasts showed up in Santa outfits to earn a free day of skiing during the 5th annual Santa ski event.



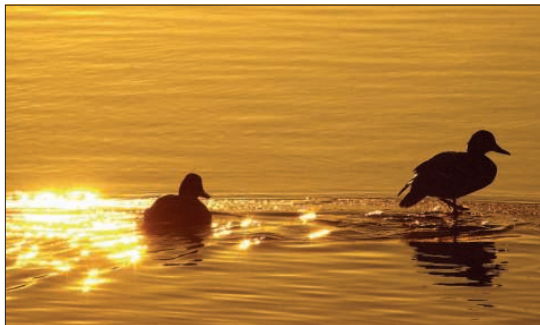
Just the guys

Danny Kissam listens as his grandson, Casson Goldsmith, 6, talks about a play at the North Carolina State 1AA Eastern Regional Finals between the Wallace Rose Hill Bulldogs and the Pamlico Hurricane held at Dowdy-Ficklin Stadium in Greenville, N.C.



Happy faces

Hilton Head (S.C.) Elementary School third-grader Abbey Bragg is the definition of cheerful as she stands in line waiting to appear on stage during the school's "Miss Alaine's Vocabulary Parade."



Golden pond

A pair of ducks swim among sheets of ice on Silver Lake in Virginia, Minn., just as a late afternoon sun breaks through, giving the water a warm golden glow.

Schools mishandle cash

FL WEST PALM BEACH — Dozens of Florida charter schools have budget deficits and problems with basic accounting procedures, a state report found. Nearly 30 percent of more than 200 charter schools ended the 2002-2003 school year with deficits. About 25 percent had problems with managing staff and 15 percent had trouble tracking spending. State education officials downplayed the findings, saying changes have been made to increase accountability.

Defibrillators study

NY ROCHESTER — An international study on the use of implanted defibrillators will be led by University of Rochester cardiologist Arthur J. Moss. The study will determine whether the devices can slow heart disease and help the heart work more efficiently. Guidant Corporation of Indianapolis, which makes the defibrillators, is providing the university more than \$30 million to conduct the study. Moss said preliminary data suggests the devices help prevent the development of heart failure.

Boone grave search

KY PARIS — An association of Daniel Boone descendants, genealogists and historians are trying to confirm the final resting place of Edward "Ned" Boone, Daniel's brother. Ned Boone was buried in Bourbon County after being slain by Indians on Oct. 6, 1780. The Boone Society is trying to determine whether Ned Boone's remains were moved from the original burial site by the Rev. Richard Thomas in 1827.

"Christmas" returns

CO DENVER — Seeking to avoid a emotionally charged battle, the mayor reversed a decision to remove the lights spelling out "Merry Christmas" from a city holiday display. Mayor John Hickenlooper said his office was flooded with complaints after he announced he would remove the message next year and replace it with the inclusive "Happy Holidays."

Ghost for sale

IN HOBART — A woman's effort to assuage her 6-year-old son's fears of his grandfather's ghost by selling it on eBay has drawn more than 34 bids with a top offer of \$78.

Mary Anderson said she placed her father's "ghost" on the online auction site after her son, Collin, said he was afraid the ghost would return someday. Anderson said Collin has avoided going anywhere in the house alone since his grandfather died last year.

In a description titled "This isn't a joke," Anderson told Collin's story on eBay: "I always thought it was just normal kid fears until a few months ago he told me why he was so scared. He told me 'Grandpa died here, and he was mean.' His ghost is still around here!"

Lest the boy's fears scare off potential bidders, Anderson added, "My dad was the sweetest, most caring man you'd ever meet."

Some of the prospective buyers have posted their own messages.

"Your story brought tears to my eyes," one bidder said. "I just wonder how this will turn out for your son. I'm sure his grandfather loved him very much."

Anderson also put her father's metal walking cane up for auction so she would have something to actually sell the winning bidder.

The proceeds from the auction will go to buy Collin a special present, she said.

Attorney kidnapped

OK OKLAHOMA CITY — A prominent criminal defense attorney was shot and kidnapped from his home by four people, then escaped when the suspects took him to a bank to withdraw money.

The suspects, two men and two women, took attorney Mark Henricksen, 50, and Brett Hubert, 27, hostage after shooting and wounding both of them in Henricksen's home, said Oklahoma City Police Capt. Jeffery Becker.

The next morning, the suspects took the men to a bank, where they ordered Henricksen to withdraw cash. Henricksen said police while inside the bank alone.

Officers arrested the four suspects soon after. They could face charges of shooting with intent to kill, robbery, kidnapping and extortion, Becker said.

Becker said officers were investigating why Henricksen was targeted and whether the suspects knew him. They also were uncertain how the suspects got into Henricksen's home.

Controller censured

NV CARSON CITY — The Nevada Senate convicted the state controller of using state equipment for her 2002 re-election campaign, but dismissed two other counts that could have led to her removal from office.

Senators voted to issue a censure — an official reprimand — against Kathy Augustine after convicting the two-term Republican on a 14-7 vote — the minimum two-thirds majority needed.

Augustine, the first state official in Nevada history to be censured, was in tears after the other counts were dropped.

Wife cashes out

NY NEW YORK — Money can't buy you love — not even \$149 million.

Juan Rodriguez, who collected the huge windfall in the Mega Millions lottery last month, is now on the outs with his wife, the New York Post reported. Iris Rodriguez wants a divorce from her husband of 17 years, and she filed the paperwork just 10 days after Juan bought the winning ticket on Nov. 19.

Iris Rodriguez is seeking a portion of her husband's huge lottery check, the Post said.

Although the couple appeared together at a news conference after Rodriguez matched his winning numbers, his wife had previously given him the boot over his financial difficulties. Rodriguez had filed for bankruptcy a month before his lottery win, and court papers showed he had just 78 cents in a savings account and owed \$44,000 to creditors.

Stories and photos from wire services

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AFRTS Television Schedule

Updated sports listings are available on the first Scoreboard page at the Sports section of AFRTS Web site at <http://myaftrts.dodmedia.mil/>

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2004

(AFN-FAMILY)	(AFN-MOVIE)	(AFN-EUROPE)	(AFN-KOREA)	(AFN-NEWS)	(AFN-SPORTS)	(SPECTRUM)	(AFN-PACIFIC)
9:00 Stanley	Movie: "Sudden Terror: The Jacking of School Bus No. 17" (1999, Suspense) Maria Martin, Anthony Edwards, Mary McCormack	Dr. Phil	Jeopardy!	Nightline	NBA Basketball Teams to Be Announced. (Taped)	Burt Wolf: Taste of Freedom Food #11	Jeopardy!
9:00 Sags-Siamess Cat		(8-16) Oprah Winfrey	Headline News	Headline News		Sensible Chic	Headline News
10:00 Arthur (E)		(35) Guiding Light	ESPNs	Handball With Chris Matthews		Fashion File	ESPNs
10:30 Between the Lions (E)		(10-47) Movie: "The Days of the Condor" (1975, Suspense) Robert Redford, Faye Dunaway, Clint Robertson	The Fairly OddParents	The O'Reilly Factor	SportsCenter	ER "Insurrection"	The Partners
11:00 Sags-Siamess Cat		Headline News	America's Next Top Model	FOX News	NBA Basketball Teams to Be Announced. (Taped)	Girlfriends "The Wedding"	America's Next Top Model
11:30 Stanley	Movie: "Places in the Heart" (1984, Sally Field A. Tense widow fights to maintain her Depression-era life.	Today Day Aiken; Valerie Hemmings	Las Vegas "Always Faithful"	Fox and Friends		Charmé "Happily Ever After"	Las Vegas "Always Faithful"
12:00 Dora the Explorer		The Fairly OddParents	Pacific Report	Fox and Friends		Aly McBeal "Sm. Lies and Second Thoughts"	Pacific Report
12:30 The Wiggles		The Tonight Show	American Morning	SportsCenter		Any Day Now "Everyone Deserves to Be Loved"	The Tonight Show
13:00 Bob the Builder		Jeopardy!	Headline News	NFL Live		ER "Insurrection"	Headline News
13:30 Dragon Tales (E)		Headline News	The Late Late Show	World Sport		Law & Order "Monster"	The Late Late Show
14:00 Blue's Clues		Headline News	Access Hollywood	FOX News		The Simpsons	Headline News
14:30 Barney & Friends (E)		Headline News	Access Hollywood	FOX News		Everybody Loves Raymond	Headline News
15:00 Funniest Home Videos		Headline News	Access Hollywood	FOX News		The Simpsons	Headline News
15:30 Full House		Headline News	Access Hollywood	FOX News		The Simpsons	Headline News
16:00 Pokémon		Headline News	Access Hollywood	FOX News		The Simpsons	Headline News
16:30 Yu-Gi-Oh!		Headline News	Access Hollywood	FOX News		The Simpsons	Headline News
17:00 Aahh! Real Monsters		Headline News	Access Hollywood	FOX News		The Simpsons	Headline News
17:30 Rocket Power		Headline News	Access Hollywood	FOX News		The Simpsons	Headline News
18:00 SpongeBob SquarePants		Headline News	Access Hollywood	FOX News		The Simpsons	Headline News
18:30 Rugrats "Wonderful World"		Headline News	Access Hollywood	FOX News		The Simpsons	Headline News
19:00 Even Stevens		Headline News	Access Hollywood	FOX News		The Simpsons	Headline News
19:30 Kanan & Kai		Headline News	Access Hollywood	FOX News		The Simpsons	Headline News
20:00 Gilmore Girls "Red Light on a Wedding Night"		Headline News	Access Hollywood	FOX News		The Simpsons	Headline News
20:30 Degra: The Next Generation		Headline News	Access Hollywood	FOX News		The Simpsons	Headline News
21:00 The Cosby Show		Headline News	Access Hollywood	FOX News		The Simpsons	Headline News
22:00 Home Improvement		Headline News	Access Hollywood	FOX News		The Simpsons	Headline News
23:00 Touched by an Angel "Jones vs. God"		Headline News	Access Hollywood	FOX News		The Simpsons	Headline News

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2004

00:00 Hey Arnold!	(11:00) Movie: "Rocky" (1976) Sylvester Stallone	(11:30) Late Show	Play With Me Sesame	Headline News	SportsCenter	Late Night	Play With Me Sesame
00:30 Rocket Power		Access Hollywood	Bear in the Big Blue House	NBC Nightly News	College Basketball Notre Dame & Indiana. (Live)	The Amazing Race	Bear in the Big Blue House
1:00 SpongeBob SquarePants		Headline News	Boothall (E)	ABC World News Tonight	CS5 Evening News	Andromeda A mysterious disease infects the Andromeda.	Boothall (E)
1:30 Rugrats "Smash! Smash! Smash!"		NBA Basketball Teams to Be Announced. (Live)	Wheel of Fortune	CS5 Evening News	Discovery Specials: Natural Wonders (Part 2 of 2)	Friends (Part 2 of 2)	Wheel of Fortune
2:00 Even Stevens		Dr. Phil	The NewsHour With Jim Lehrer	Dr. Phil	Discovery Specials: Natural Wonders (Part 2 of 2)	Oprah Winfrey	Dr. Phil
2:30 Kanan & Kai		Oprah Winfrey	Hammy & Colmes	College Basketball Oklahoma at Purdue. (Live)	Friends (Part 2 of 2)	NBC Nightly News	Oprah Winfrey
3:00 Gilmore Girls "Red Light on a Wedding Night"		ESPNs	NBC Nightly News	Headline News	Sanford	Breathings Yoga	Headline News
3:30 Degra: The Next Generation		ESPNs	NBC Nightly News	Nightly Business Report	Sanford	Caribbean Workout	Headline News
4:00 The Cosby Show		Headline News	Access Hollywood	Lo Dobbs Tonight	SportsCenter	Body Shopping	Headline News
5:00 Sesame Street (E)		Headline News	Access Hollywood	Larry King Live	NFL Game of the Week	Typical Mary Ellen	Headline News
5:30 Barney & Friends (E)		Headline News	Access Hollywood	60 Minutes	NFL Game of the Week	The View	Headline News
6:00 Blue's Clues (E)		Headline News	Access Hollywood	60 Minutes	NFL Game of the Week	The View	Headline News
6:30 Dragon Tales (E)		Headline News	Access Hollywood	60 Minutes	NFL Game of the Week	The View	Headline News
7:00 Bob the Builder		Headline News	Access Hollywood	60 Minutes	NFL Game of the Week	The View	Headline News
7:30 The Wiggles		Headline News	Access Hollywood	60 Minutes	NFL Game of the Week	The View	Headline News
8:00 Dora the Explorer		Headline News	Access Hollywood	60 Minutes	NFL Game of the Week	The View	Headline News
8:30 Stanley		Headline News	Access Hollywood	60 Minutes	NFL Game of the Week	The View	Headline News
9:00 Sags-Siamess Cat		Headline News	Access Hollywood	60 Minutes	NFL Game of the Week	The View	Headline News
10:00 Arthur (E)		Headline News	Access Hollywood	60 Minutes	NFL Game of the Week	The View	Headline News
10:30 Between the Lions (E)		Headline News	Access Hollywood	60 Minutes	NFL Game of the Week	The View	Headline News
11:00 Sags-Siamess Cat		Headline News	Access Hollywood	60 Minutes	NFL Game of the Week	The View	Headline News
11:30 Stanley "Hippo Hobbies"		Headline News	Access Hollywood	60 Minutes	NFL Game of the Week	The View	Headline News
12:00 Dora the Explorer		Headline News	Access Hollywood	60 Minutes	NFL Game of the Week	The View	Headline News
12:30 The Wiggles		Headline News	Access Hollywood	60 Minutes	NFL Game of the Week	The View	Headline News
13:00 Bob the Builder		Headline News	Access Hollywood	60 Minutes	NFL Game of the Week	The View	Headline News
13:30 Dragon Tales (E)		Headline News	Access Hollywood	60 Minutes	NFL Game of the Week	The View	Headline News
14:00 Blue's Clues		Headline News	Access Hollywood	60 Minutes	NFL Game of the Week	The View	Headline News
14:30 Barney & Friends (E)		Headline News	Access Hollywood	60 Minutes	NFL Game of the Week	The View	Headline News
15:00 Funniest Home Videos		Headline News	Access Hollywood	60 Minutes	NFL Game of the Week	The View	Headline News
15:30 Full House		Headline News	Access Hollywood	60 Minutes	NFL Game of the Week	The View	Headline News
16:00 Pokémon		Headline News	Access Hollywood	60 Minutes	NFL Game of the Week	The View	Headline News
16:30 Yu-Gi-Oh! "Double Duel"		Headline News	Access Hollywood	60 Minutes	NFL Game of the Week	The View	Headline News
17:00 Aahh! Real Monsters		Headline News	Access Hollywood	60 Minutes	NFL Game of the Week	The View	Headline News
17:30 Rocket Power		Headline News	Access Hollywood	60 Minutes	NFL Game of the Week	The View	Headline News
18:00 SpongeBob SquarePants		Headline News	Access Hollywood	60 Minutes	NFL Game of the Week	The View	Headline News
18:30 Rugrats		Headline News	Access Hollywood	60 Minutes	NFL Game of the Week	The View	Headline News
19:00 That's So Raven		Headline News	Access Hollywood	60 Minutes	NFL Game of the Week	The View	Headline News
19:30 All That		Headline News	Access Hollywood	60 Minutes	NFL Game of the Week	The View	Headline News
20:00 "The Heaven Smiling"		Headline News	Access Hollywood	60 Minutes	NFL Game of the Week	The View	Headline News
20:30 Sabrina, the Teenage Witch		Headline News	Access Hollywood	60 Minutes	NFL Game of the Week	The View	Headline News
21:00 Sabrina, the Teenage Witch		Headline News	Access Hollywood	60 Minutes	NFL Game of the Week	The View	Headline News
22:00 The Cosby Show		Headline News	Access Hollywood	60 Minutes	NFL Game of the Week	The View	Headline News
22:30 Home Improvement		Headline News	Access Hollywood	60 Minutes	NFL Game of the Week	The View	Headline News
23:00 Touched by an Angel "The Pact"		Headline News	Access Hollywood	60 Minutes	NFL Game of the Week	The View	Headline News

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FACES

Fox shares ice with hockey star

It was difficult to tell who was more excited: **Michael J. Fox** for playing alongside former hockey star **Gilbert Perreault**, or the other way around.



Fox

"Man, it's very cool. It's thrilling," Fox said Saturday after meeting Perreault, a member of the Buffalo Sabres' famed French Connection of the 1970s. "I mean, I'm skating with the French Connection today. Give me a break. It's just insane. That's nuts. I love it."

The feeling was more than mutual.

"I had a big thrill playing with him," Perreault said. "He's got a lot of guts, and good luck to him. He's a wonderful man."

The meeting was part of former Sabres captain **Pat LaFontaine's** Champions in Courage charity game to raise money for Buffalo Women and Children's Hospital. The event raised more than \$200,000 toward LaFontaine's goal of building a computer playground for children at the hospital.

Piscopo embarrassed by some characters

Comedian **Joe Piscopo** wants to change the popular stereotypes of Italian-Americans promoted on television and in movies.

The former "Saturday Night Live" star attended a panel discussion at Seton Hall University on Saturday that examined why, according to one attendee, prejudice against Italians is tacitly accepted in popular culture.

Piscopo, who said he is embarrassed by some of the stereotypical Italian characters he has played, is at work on a movie that portrays an Italian-American family from northern New Jersey. He is determined to get the film made, though he said he has run into difficulties because it is not gangster-related.

Trump wants \$500M from ex-employer

Donald Trump got fired. Now he's asking for \$500 million.

The real estate mogul and television star is offering to drop his breach of contract lawsuit against the Eastern Pequot tribe and the casino investors who replaced him in exchange for half a billion dollars.

"The figure was arrived at very carefully by people in the Trump organization who determined what likely income would have been generated had the Trump organization gone forward with the Eastern Pequot casino," Trump's lawyer, **Robert I. Reardon**, told *The Day* of New London.

The Eastern Pequot's attorney, however, says the tribe is not interested.



Trump

Ballard worried before return to Titanic

Ocean explorer **Robert Ballard** was nervous this summer as he prepared to return to the *Titanic* for the first time since he discovered the famous shipwreck nearly two decades ago.

He had been hearing reports of severe deterioration of the ship from natural causes and from damage done by scores of dives.

Ballard also worried that passengers' personal belongings had been taken by salvagers.

But using the latest high definition cameras and precise robotic submarines, he made a startling discovery: Two shoes, one larger than the other, next to each other and a hair comb nearby, along with materials from a third-class cabin. Ballard believes the shoes belonged to a mother and her daughter.



Ballard

"They're the tombstones," Ballard said. "I can tell you it absolutely speaks to you when you go there. It's not just a ship."

Ballard spoke Friday at Mystic Aquarium & Institute For Exploration, which he runs. The aquarium has expanded its exhibit on the *Titanic* to include Ballard's latest video clips and photos from his summer voyage.

The *Titanic* sank on April 15, 1912, after it hit an iceberg on its maiden voyage. More than 1,500 passengers and crew members died in less than three hours.

Photos and stories from wire reports

'It's not all up to you'



LATWP

Despite tough-guy image, actor Willem Dafoe thrives on creative collaboration

BY ELAINE DUTKA
Los Angeles Times

HOLLYWOOD

Willem Dafoe conjures up the image of cold intensity. During his quarter of a century on screen, he's played more than his share of villains and madmen. By his own admission, he was never "the boy next door."

Starting out as an extra in the ill-fated "Heaven's Gate," the actor was cast as a postmodern heavy in 1985's "To Live and Die in L.A.," his breakthrough film, and nominated for a best supporting actor Oscar as the title character in 2000's "Shadow of the Vampire." He was also the Green Goblin in "Spider-Man" (a role that generated his own action doll), a kidnapper in "The Clearing" (2004) and a five-star general plotting to overthrow the government in Lee Tamahori's "XXX: State of the Union," currently being the cameras.

Over lunch however, the actor reveals a softer side — more salmon ("medium, please") than red meat: He's not the Christ-like soldier he played in "Platoon," which earned him another best supporting actor nomination, nor the Savior himself, as in "The Last Temptation of Christ." But in a town where the media and their prey are often at arm's length, he was surprisingly chatty ("slow me down") and reflective. Holding forth on topics such as the relationship between acting and life and the benefits of age, the actor undercuts his philosophical riffs with an easy, self-deprecating laugh.

The subject at hand: the Wes Anderson comedy "The Life Aquatic with Steve Zissou," set to open in New York and Los Angeles on Dec. 10. In it, Dafoe takes on the unlikely role of Klaus, a German engineer to Bill Murray's pot-smoking, Jacques Cousteau-type oceanographer — a man in search of the jaguar shark that devoured his best friend.

Co-starring with Dafoe: Cate Blanchett as a very pregnant reporter, Owen Wilson as Murray's long-lost son, Anjelica Huston as Murray's disaffected wife, and Jeff Goldblum as her former husband. They all act as if they're people who they haven't got a clue, explains Dafoe: "It's a 'portrait of pretension.'"

While Klaus was a comic departure for him, he identified with the character.

"We share an earnestness — and loyalty," Dafoe says. "Like him, part of me is a blowhard. Part of me is a bully. Klaus comes off as an egomaniac but what he really wants is acceptance and love."

And Dafoe? "I ain't saying, I ain't saying," the actor retorts, munching on his radicchio salad.

Dressed in a black V-neck sweater and faded jeans,

Dafoe looks less Hollywood and more downtown Manhattan, his adopted home.

A high school dropout, the Wisconsin native headed east in the mid-1970s and joined New York City's avant-garde Wooster Group.

Without being "gossipy," he says, he feels compelled to note that there's been a "bit of an adjustment" on that front. Last winter, a 27-year live-in relationship with Wooster's artistic director, Elizabeth LeCompte, came to an end, and — because their "personal lives and work are so intertwined," he diluted his involvement with the troupe. The stage is still a passion. ("Theater is like having a monogamous relationship, while movies are like being with a different woman every night.") He'll act with them again. But when he's not on a set, he's in Rome.

Rome, he says, is where his heart is since encountering Italian director Giada Colagrande. Her "Aprile il Cuore" (Open My Heart), an explicit tale of love between two sisters, will be released in New York in December and Los Angeles the following month.

It's a brand new chapter, acknowledges the 49-year-old. Change is inherent in life, he says, alluding to one of his favorite books: Alan Watts' "The Wisdom of Insecurity." While he's not someone who seeks it out, being a performer helps. Actors live in a variety of locations and establish deep, but transitory, bonds.

Working in a collaborative medium, moreover, teaches them to go: "It's not all up to you," he observes.

"It's a contradiction," Dafoe says. "To do what you need to do, you have to believe that you're at the center of it all. But you also realize that you're one as narcissist but a lot of them deeply want to disappear into a role."

Willem Dafoe

"Theater is like having a monogamous relationship, while movies are like being with a different woman every night."

Finding oneself by losing oneself is easier said than done, he concedes. "Someone once called me a 'book Buddha' — and they were half right. Just because I'm attracted to a certain kind of writing doesn't mean that I live it."

Though it's hard to confirm, conventional wisdom has it that Dafoe has had more death scenes than any other mainstream actor — most notably in "Platoon" and "Last Temptation of Christ."

"I'm practicing so that when the time comes, I'll be really good at it," he quips, taking a last sip of espresso. "That's an ambition in itself. It's depressing to think that someone will account for my life in terms of the movies I've done."

His real fear is that he'll die tomorrow — and the world will say it has lost the Green Goblin.

"I guess there are worse things," the actor concludes, heading out into the rain-soaked streets. Flashing one of those serpentine smiles, he implores: "Don't make me sound pretentious."

Fotrot



B.C.



Baby Blues



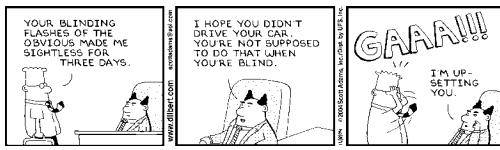
Spider Man



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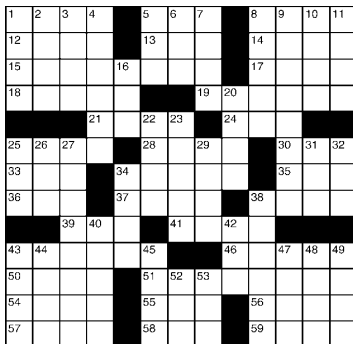
Hagar



Garfield



Eugene Sheffer Crossword



Across

- 1 Actress Jessica
5 Hole
8 Manage somehow

Down

- 12 Earl Grey's family?
13 Commotion
14 In due course
15 Fleeting the fuzz
17 WWII invasion site
18 Street's boss?
19 Anticlimax
21 Patronize the library
24 Infinitesimal
25 Old woman's home
28 Wheels of fortune?
30 Binge
33 Bit of wordplay
34 "Boleto" composer
35 Have bills
36 Still
37 Hydrox competitor
38 Competent
39 In what way?
41 Trade
43 KFC piece ...
46 ... enhanced by this?
50 Capital output
51 Broadcasting
54 California town
55 Plumery
56 Culture medium
57 Serenades the moon

- 58 Altar affirmative
59 Writer Anita

- 25 Bond, for one
26 Coloration
27 Getting there
29 Catcall?
31 Piercing tool
32 "Holy cow!"
34 Obey the coxswain
38 Attraction
40 Home away from home
42 Blond shade
43 Sci-fi villain
44 Prince of India
45 Author Morrison
46 Othello's foe
48 Florentine farewell
49 Screws up
52 Affirmative action
53 Snake eyes

Answer to Previous Puzzle



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KXND SAOWDLJ OXDZVRY
ELYY LKLP, V YAEEDYD
VR'Y OGZEWDRDWP

YAVRLQWD RG QLVVAZ.
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SCOREBOARD

AFN TV & Radio

AFN Sports, 9 a.m. - NBA: New Orleans at Houston (Hd).

AFN Sports, 12:30 p.m. - NBA: Charlotte at Sacramento (Hd).

AFN Sports, 4 p.m. - Motorcycle racing: The World Supercross, 125 cc (Hd).

AFN Sports, 6 p.m. - Rodeo: National Finals: Omaha at Portland.

AFN Sports, 9 p.m. - Motorcycle racing: The World Supercross, 250 cc (Hd).

Thursday

AFN Sports, 10 a.m. - College basketball: Notre Dame at Indiana.

AFN Sports, 12:30 a.m. - College basketball: Notre Dame at Detroit.

AFN Sports, 3 a.m. - NFL: NFL Films Game of the Week (1-Id).

AFN Sports, 5 p.m. - NFL: NFL Films Game of the Week (1-Id).

AFN Sports, 9 p.m. - Golf: Target World Challenge, first round.

All times Central European Time. Id indicates national broadcast. All listings are subject to change. Visit www.afn.net for more information.

College basketball

Men's AP Top 25 rated

Monday

1. Illinois (7-0) beat St. Louis State 79-99.

Next: at Georgetown, Thursday.

2. Kansas (14-0) did not play. Next: vs. Texas Christian, Thursday.

3. Michigan (15-0) did not play. Next: vs. Air Force, Saturday.

4. Syracuse (17-0) did not play. Next: vs. St. Louis, Saturday.

5. Oklahoma State (5-0) did not play. Next: vs. St. Louis, Saturday.

6. Wake Forest (6-1) did not play. Next: at Temple, Monday.

7. Connecticut (4-0) beat Northeastern State 82-67, at Massachusetts, Thursday.

8. North Carolina (6-1) did not play. Next: vs. Wake Forest, Saturday.

9. Duke (5-0) did not play. Next: vs. Toledo, Sunday.

10. Kentucky (4-1) did not play. Next: vs. Missouri State, Wednesday.

11. Pittsburgh (6-0) did not play. Next: vs. Memphis, Tuesday.

12. North Carolina State (6-0) did not play. Next: vs. Liberty, Saturday.

13. Florida (4-1) did not play. Next: at Florida, Saturday.

14. Virginia (1-1) did not play. Next: vs. North Texas, Tuesday.

15. Auburn (5-2) did not play. Next: vs. Utah, Saturday.

16. Wisconsin (5-1) did not play. Next: vs. San Diego State, Tuesday.

17. Iowa (6-1) did not play. Next: vs. Northern Iowa, Tuesday.

18. Alabama (6-1) did not play. Next: at Alabama State, Tuesday.

19. Michigan State (4-2) did not play. Next: vs. Stanford, Saturday.

20. Georgia Washington (5-1) did not play. Next: vs. Georgia, Saturday.

21. Mississippi State (6-2) did not play. Next: vs. Arkansas-Little Rock, Saturday.

22. Maryland (4-2) did not play. Next: vs. North Carolina-Ashville, Sunday.

23. Wisconsin (6-1) did not play. Next: vs. Wisconsin-Green Bay, Tuesday.

24. Gonzaga (5-1) did not play. Next: at Washington State, Tuesday.

Monday's men's scores

EAST

Albany, N.Y. 73, Maryland 69.

Brown 77, Hartford 65.

Cabrin 69, Maryland 69.

Clark 79, Lafayette 72.

Connecticut 97, Northeastern 60.

Delaware 65, Penn State 66.

Franklin Pierce 66, Penn State 66.

Gwynedd-Mercy 55, Neumann 88.

Hampton 55, Cross 39.

Marist 61, Pfeiffer 78.

Pace 87, Rutgers, N.Y. 53.

St. Francis, N.Y. 69, St. Albans 99.

Widener 104, Dominican-Cameron 62.

Yeshiva 75, Mount St. Mary's 69.

SOUTH

Appalachian St. 64, C-South 74.

Belmont 91, Navy 66.

Brigham Young 78, Lafayette 15.

Hampton 55, Florida A&M 49.

Hofstra 78, Longwood 66.

Howard 88, Mid-Eastern Shore 66.

Longwood 66, Hartford 65.

Louisville 71, Savannah 58.

Marist 61, Pfeiffer 78.

Norfolk 68, Bethune-Cookman 53.

Northwestern St. 85, Tusculum 56.

St. Carolina 52, Cogan 55.

Tennessee Tech 53, Albany 69.

The Citadel 75, Atlanta Christian 49.

MIDWEST

Bethel, Minn. 74, Augsburg 55.

Brian Cliff 68, St. Mary, Neb. 56.

Central St. 50, John's, Minn. 49.

Central Methodist 123, Central 20.

Cornell, Iowa 86, Franciscan 85.

DePaul 68, Ind.-Purdue 67.

Evansville 72, St. Illinois 55.

Illinois 78, Chicago 57.

Indiana St. 61, Indiana 79.

Kansas St. 76, Oakland, Minn. 59.

Laurens 78, St. Mary's, Minn. 58.

Mid-Am Nazareth 74, Baker 61.

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Kidd returns to nets, assists on game-winning basket

The Associated Press

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. — Jason Kidd played only 21 minutes in his season debut. That was just enough to lift the New Jersey Nets.

Making his return from knee surgery, Kidd assisted on Richie Jefferson's jumper from the lane with 7.1 seconds left that gave the Nets an 88-86 victory over the Toronto Raptors on Monday night.

Jefferson caught Kidd's pass on the right wing, took three dribbles to his left and launched a 9-footer that fell through.

So what if Jefferson did most of the work? "Heck, yeah, he deserved an assist," said Jefferson, who had 26 points, nine rebounds and eight assists. "I finished, but he put me in position to finish it."

Nets coach Lawrence Frank

Roundup

made sure to rest Kidd throughout — he didn't start the second half — but the seven-time All-Star made 10 points, six rebounds and three assists, and forced Vince Carter into a missed layup as time expired.

"I wanted to guard him," Kidd said. "We all knew in the huddle where the ball was going to end up. I wanted to guard him and try to make it as tough as possible."

Kidd's presence was sorely missed by the Nets during their first 16 games. New Jersey won just four during that span, good for last place in the Atlantic Division.

"It was a whole different feel-

ing when he was out there," Nets forward Eric Williams said. "We got the ball up and down the floor, and the game just looked a whole lot better."

Carter led Toronto with 22 points and Chris Bosh added 15 points.

Two free throws by Jefferson with 52.5 seconds left made it 86-84, giving New Jersey its first lead since midway through the first quarter. Carter tied it 10 seconds later with two from the line.

Spurs 91, Bulls 75: At Chicago, Tony Parker scored 17 points and Tim Duncan had his 16th double-double as San Antonio won its eighth straight.

Duncan finished with 12 points and 11 rebounds for the Spurs, who improved to an NBA-best 16-3 despite 21 turnovers — two shy of their season high.

Tyson Chandler led Chicago with 17 points and 12 rebounds. **Pistons 101, Mavericks 85:** At Dallas, Chauncey Billups tied his season high with 24 points, and Richard Hamilton scored 13 of his 19 in the third quarter.

The Pistons took a 10-point lead into halftime, then stretched it to 21 at the three-minute mark. The Mavericks never got closer than 12 the rest of the way.

Dirk Nowitzki shot 6-for-24 from the field, but scored 27 points by making 15 of 16 from the foul line.

Nuggets 115, Magic 102: At Denver, Andre Miller scored 29 points, and Carmelo Anthony added 28 for the Nuggets.

Dwight Howard and Steve Francis each scored 23 points for the Magic, who fell behind by 25 in the second quarter.

Warriors 110, Celtics 106: At Oakland, Calvin Murphy scored a career-high 30 points and 15 rebounds to help Golden State win consecutive games for the first time this season.

Boston had a chance to win with 20 seconds left, but Paul Pierce airballed a jumper under heavy defensive pressure. Pierce finished with 22 points and five rebounds. Jiri Welsch scored a career-high 24 points for the Celtics.

Clippers 99, Bobcats 93: At Los Angeles, Cory Maggette scored four of his 33 points in the second overtime and the Clippers overcame Elton Brand's fourth-quarter election.

Heat 96, 76ers 92: At Atlanta, Josh Smith scored the tiebreaking basket with 17.6 seconds remaining, then blocked a shot to help the Hawks snap a nine-game losing streak.

'Neal becomes 31st with 10,000 rebounds

The Associated Press

SALT LAKE CITY — Shaquille O'Neal pulled down his 10,000th career rebound and Damon Jones scored 21 points with a career-best seven three-pointers to lead the Miami Heat past the slumping Utah Jazz 100-80 Monday night.

Dwayne Wade added 23 points and 12 rebounds for the Heat, who swept the season series against the Jazz for the first time and got their first win at Utah in four years.

O'Neal needed eight rebounds entering the game to become the 31st player with 10,000 career boards. He finished with 21 points and 13 rebounds, reaching the milestone in the third quarter when he pulled down a miss by Shaquille O'Neal.

O'Neal also had five assists. Matt Harpring scored 12 and

Carlos Boozer finished with 11 points and 10 rebounds for the Jazz, who have lost five in a row after seven wins.

The Heat were coming off a 104-95 loss at Denver on Saturday night and blew a 14-point lead early in the third quarter, then turned the game into a rout in the second half.

The Jazz briefly took a 51-49 lead early in the third quarter on a three-point play by Mehmet Okur, but Wade quickly tied it up and the Heat took off later in the period.

Okur got Utah to 58-57 with a shot that bounced twice off the rim before rolling in, then the Heat exploded on a 19-2 run. Damon Jones hit back-to-back three-pointers to put the Heat up 72-59, and Wade blew through the lane for a one-handed dunk.

Kris Humphrey, who O'Neal pulled down his 10,000th rebound at the other end.

Police turn brawl case over to prosecutors

The Associated Press

AUBURN HILLS, Mich. — Police turned the findings from their investigation of the Pacers-Pistons brawl over to the Oakland County prosecutor on Monday, and charges are expected to be announced Wednesday.

"While the investigation will continue, all of the major suspects have been arrested and are now under review for possible criminal charges," prosecutor David Gorceyia's office said in a release.

The fight among spectators and players broke out after an on-court dispute over a foul during the game on Nov. 19. A fan hurled a drink at Indiana's Ron

Artest, who then charged into the court. Other Pacers players and fans joined in the melee. Several people, including a police officer, were hit with a chair that was thrown.

Gorceyia has said players and fans could be charged with misdemeanor assault and battery. The only possible felony charge under consideration would be against whoever threw the chair.

Warrants will be issued based largely upon the numerous and lengthy video tape, as well as approximately 1,000 pages of reports. Everyone involved in the violation of a state law will be held accountable, regardless of their stature at the game," Gorceyia said.

NBA scoreboard

Eastern Conference

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	1	0	.111	
Boston	1	1	.429	
Philadelphia	1	1	.429	
Toronto	1	1	.333	
Nets	1	1	.333	

Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Washington	1	0	.500	
Orlando	1	0	.500	
Charlotte	1	0	.500	
Atlanta	1	0	.500	
Cleveland	1	0	.500	
Detroit	1	0	.500	
Chicago	1	0	.500	

Western Conference

Southwest Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
San Antonio	1	0	.500	
Phoenix	1	0	.500	
Houston	1	0	.500	
New Orleans	1	0	.500	
Seattle	1	0	.500	
Denver	1	0	.500	
Miami	1	0	.500	

Pacific Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Phoenix	1	0	.500	
LA Clippers	1	0	.500	
Golden State	1	0	.500	
Portland	1	0	.500	

Monday's games

Atlanta 96, Nets 88	10:30
New Jersey 88, Toronto 86	10:30
LA Clippers 91, Chicago 75	10:30
Denver 115, Orlando 102	10:30
LA Clippers 99, Charlotte 93	10:30

Phoenix 12, New Orleans 9	10:30
LA Clippers 11, Miami 8	10:30
Golden State 12, Portland 9	10:30
LA Clippers 11, Portland 9	10:30

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Bibby fired by Trojans

Former Utah coach Majerus considered a top candidate

BY TODD HARMONSON

The Orange County Register

LOS ANGELES — Two seasons of LOSING and more than eight of contentious confrontations cost Southern California basketball coach Henry Bibby his job Monday after only four games this season.

Trojans athletic director Mike Garrett said his "gut feeling" was that USC needed an immediate change, and he fired Bibby with nearly two seasons remaining on his contract.

"It's really a totality," Garrett said. "You want to make it out into wins and losses. It's more of a gut feeling and very much what I felt. We have to go in another direction."

Trojans assistant Jim Saia, who served on Steve Lavin's UCLA staff, was appointed interim head coach while USC's administrators search for a replacement.

Garrett initially said Saia would remain in place for the du-



Henry Bibby, above, led USC to the NCAA tournament in 2001 and 2002, but the Trojans are 28-34 since then. Assistant Jim Saia will serve as interim head coach.

ration of the season, but that might not be the case if the Trojans pick a coach who isn't bound to another team.

Former Utah coach Rick Majerus immediately was considered a strong candidate for the job and could be available to take over during the season.

Majerus did not respond to a phone message left Monday.

USC officials were inundated with calls, e-mails and faxes from interested coaches, and administrators are expected to gauge the interest of several others in their search.

Pepperdine coach and former Trojans guard Paul Westphal will be among them, along with Manhattan coach Bobby Gonzalez and UC Santa Barbara coach Bob Williams.

Former Clippers coach Alvin Gentry, who is an assistant with Phoenix, has expressed interest in coaching at USC.

New No. 1 Illinois rolls 78-59

The Associated Press

CHAMPAIGN, Ill. — Luthar Head scored 17 points and Dee Brown added 15 points and nine assists for Illinois, which celebrated its No. 1 ranking with a 78-59 victory over Chicago State on Monday night.

The Illini (7-0) moved from fifth to the top spot in The Associated Press' poll on Monday. It was the third time in school history it reached No. 1. The other two appearances were in 1952 and 1989, each for one week.

"Sometimes we forget we're a Top 5 team, that we're No. 1," Brown said. "Fans go crazy about it, but we're just humble. I've never been around a humble team like this."

Deron Williams and Roger Powell Jr. each added nine points for Illinois, which was playing its second game in three days and started a week that includes a trip to Georgetown on Thursday and a game against Oregon in Chicago on Saturday.

Deji Akindele scored 14 points for Chicago State (0-5).

College basketball roundup

This season and were 14-for-30 from three-point range.

In other Top 25 games on Monday:

No. 7 Connecticut 97, Northeastern 60: Josh Boone had a career-high 19 points and grabbed 14 rebounds to lead host Connecticut.

Boone anchored a dominating post for UConn (4-0), which overwhelmed smaller Northeastern (2-4). Connecticut leads the series 32-4 and hasn't lost to Northeastern since 1985.

Marcus Barnes, who scored the first nine points for Northeastern, finished with 20.

Iowa State 81, No. 19 Virginia 79: Iowa State's Curtis Stinson scored 30 points, including the go-ahead three-pointer with 18.6 seconds left.

Host Iowa State (4-1) survived a career-high 40 points by Virgin-

ia's Devin Smith and wasn't as sure of winning until the Cavaliers (6-1) missed three shots in a wild flurry in the final seconds.

Virginia took a 79-77 lead when Gary Forbes drove for a layup with 27 seconds left, but Iowa State quickly got the ball to Stinson on the left wing and he made his fifth three-pointer to put the Cyclones up 80-79.

After Will Block of Iowa State made one free throw, Virginia's Sean Singletary kicked the ball up the floor, drove for a layup from the right side and the Cavaliers missed two tip-ins.

Service academics

Belmont 91, Navy 66: At Nashville, Tenn., Nick Otis hit four of five three-pointers and had 14 points to lead Belmont over Navy. Belmont (2-3) shot 58 percent for the game and made 12 of 21 three-pointers.

Navy (3-2) trailed 44-41 with 14:37 left until the Bruins scored 11 straight points.

Navy, which shot 42.6 percent from the field, was led by Laramie Merriam (14 points) and David Hooper (10).

Texas LB Johnson wins Nagurski

From wire reports

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — Texas linebacker Derrick Johnson won the Bronko Nagurski Award in Charlotte on Monday night, honoring his status as college football's defensive player of the year.

Johnson, a senior, beat four other finalists — Wisconsin defensive end Erasmus James, Marshall defensive end Johnathan

Goddard, Georgia defensive end David Pollack and Auburn corner-back Carlos Rogers.

Johnson, who set a school record with eight forced fumbles this season, became the first Texas player to win the 12-year award, presented by the Football Writers Association of America and the Charlotte Touchdown Club.

"My biggest strength is my

speed," said Johnson, who has seen class in the 4.4-second range in the 40-yard dash. "Speed is involved on every single play on defense, and there aren't too many guys who can outrun me."

Johnson also is a finalist for the Bednarik, Lombardi and Butkus awards.

A 6-foot-4, 235-pound weakside linebacker, Johnson is considered a likely top-10 pick in the NFL Draft.

Murphy acquitted of sexual abuse charges involving daughters

The Associated Press

HOUSTON — Calvin Murphy just wanted to bark in the moment after a jury cleared him of sexually abusing five of his 10 daughters more than a decade ago.

"For right now, I am just going to take a step back and enjoy this moment," the Hall of Fame basketball player said as he left the courtroom.

"As you can tell, I am a very emotional person," he said. "I carry my feelings on my sleeve. And to hear that people believed in me and found me innocent of these charges, my heart just swelled up and started beating very fast in my body."

The minute the jury left the courtroom, Murphy ran up to his defense attorney, hugging him tightly, slapping his back and giving him a kiss. Tears streaming from his face, he hugged and kissed everyone who would let him.

"I cannot say enough for what they have done to give me my life back," Murphy said.

He said he hopes to talk with his daughters.



Briefs

Murphy's daughters and prosecutors left the courthouse without commenting. Prosecutors did not immediately return a message from The Associated Press seeking comment.

Murphy, 56, had long denied the allegations. He said they were based on resentment and a dispute about money.

The jury deliberated about two hours before returning its verdict in the morning trial.

"You can never fully repair his reputation," defense attorney Rusty Hardin told jurors during closing arguments. "But you can take that first step in righting an injustice."

Hardin claimed the women were lying and the charges against the former Houston Rockets player were fabricated.

Murphy faced three charges of indecency with a child and three charges of aggravated sexual assault.

Murphy could have faced five years to life in prison for the aggravated offenses and two to 20 years for the indecency violations.

Murphy was drafted in 1970 by the San Diego Rockets, who moved to Houston the following season. He quickly became a fan favorite.

His 77949 points were a franchise high until Hakeem Olajuwon passed him.

Known as the "Pocket Rocket" because of his small stature, Murphy missed just nine free throws and made 78 straight in one stretch — in 1980-81 for a record season percentage of 95%.

Following Monday's verdict, Hardin indicated Murphy would like to return to basketball. In September, he was dismissed from his job as a television analyst for the Houston Rockets.

Rockets senior vice president Tad Brown said the team was pleased Murphy was cleared and would re-evaluate his future at the end of the season.

Orlando center Battle suspended for elbowing Gasol

NEW YORK — Orlando Magic center Tony Battle was suspended for one game without pay by the NBA on Monday for elbowing Memphis Grizzlies forward Pau Gasol in the head.

Battle was called for a flagrant foul midway through the first

quarter of Orlando's 96-91 victory on Saturday.

He served the suspension during Monday night's game at Denver.

Attorneys ask judge to keep Bryant's history out of civil suit

DENVER — Kobe Bryant's attorneys asked a judge Monday to make sure the NBA star doesn't have to answer questions about other "consensual relationships" as he defends himself against a civil lawsuit accusing him of rape.

Bryant had promised to be available Monday or Tuesday to answer, for the first time, questions under oath about what happened at a mountain resort last year.

However, in a filing released Monday in federal court, Bryant's lawyers said both sides couldn't agree on the kinds of questions the Los Angeles Lakers star would be asked.

They said planned questions about Bryant's history of "consensual sexual relationships with anyone other than the plaintiff" have "little possible relevance" to the woman's claims.

They asked a judge to bar such questions.

The lawsuit seeks unspecified

damages for pain, scorn and ridicule the woman says she has suffered since her encounter with Bryant at the Vail-area resort where she worked in June 2003.

Prosecutors dropped a sexual assault charge against Bryant on Sept. 1 after the woman said she no longer wanted to participate in the crime who she followed a series of courthouse gaffes that released details about her on the Internet.

No trial date has been set in the civil case.

Bobcats acquire guard Rush from Lakers

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — Los Angeles Lakers guard Kareem Rush was acquired by the Charlotte Bobcats on Monday for two second-round draft picks.

The Lakers received Charlotte's second-round picks for 2005 and 2008.

Toronto made Rush the 20th overall pick in the 2002 draft, then traded his rights to the Lakers. He has 14 points, 1.3 rebounds and 0.9 assists in his first two seasons.

He's averaging just 0.9 points, 1.2 rebounds and 0.5 minutes this season, but has been activated by a right ankle injury and struggled to crack the lineup behind Kobe Bryant and Caron Butler.

Players, clubs make progress, but no deal yet

BY RONALD BLUM
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Baseball players and owners have made progress toward toughening rules on steroid testing, a move that would pre-empt congressional intervention.

How close they are to an agreement depends on which side you listen to.

Commissioner Bud Selig, who has called for more frequent testing and harsher penalties, told Colorado Gov. Bill Owens two weeks ago that an agreement was near, Owens said Monday.

Gene Orza, the union's chief operating officer, said that while the discussions toward a new agreement had advanced, there was more work to be done.

"We've had a series of discussions with the clubs, and in many respects they've been fruitful," he said Monday after the union opened its annual executive board meeting. "But to suggest we have a deal that either is going to be ratified by the executive board or that is going to be put in place shortly is simply not right."

Orza said discussions will continue, and a management official said owners hoped they would resume next week. Selig wants tougher rules in place by "One Day."

"I won't say we're a long ways away," Orza said of an agreement. "I don't want to say it's not possible. I just can't guarantee it."

Currently, players are tested once at the start of spring training through the end of the regular season. Selig wants additional tests, some in the offseason, and more substances added to the banned list.

Under the agreement in place, scheduled to run until December 2006, players don't face suspensions until their second positive test for steroids.

In the wake of reports that Barry Bonds, Jason Giambi and Gary Sheffield told a federal grand jury they used steroids, Sen. John McCain has threatened to propose federal legislation that would override the drug-testing provisions in baseball's collective bargaining agreement.

Owens called Selig two weeks ago, telling him Colorado could enact its own steroid rules for players playing in Colorado.

"As a big fan, I told him something needed to be done," Owens said. "He said they were close to reaching an agreement."

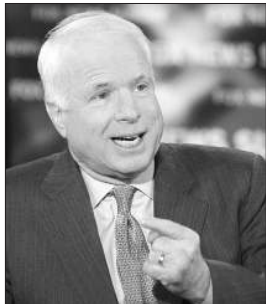
Owens hosts a monthly sports and highlights show on a regional network.

"It's clear some of them don't want this," he said of players. "The union has been dragging its feet for reasons that are hard to understand."

Selig had surgery Monday in New York to remove a carious lesion from his forehead and wasn't available for comment on Owens' remarks. Rob Manfred, baseball's executive vice president of labor relations, declined to comment on the talks.

"If we cannot resolve this issue privately, I gladly will accept whatever fate is offered by Senator McCain to achieve our ultimate goal," Selig said in a statement Monday.

"I appreciate the support of Senator McCain," Selig said, adding that the "illegal use of these substances is damaging" baseball's credibility.



FOX NEWS/SUNDAY/AP

Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., says baseball must act to keep players from using steroids or Congress will.

"Perhaps, most damaging, it encourages our young fans to use these horrible substances," Selig said. "While I would prefer to resolve this problem directly with the players' association and jointly implement a much stronger drug-testing policy in major league baseball, one modeled after our program in the minor leagues, I understand the need for swift and resolute action."

Reporters were barred from the lobby by Royal Palms Resort and Spa in Phoenix, preventing them from having access to most players at the meeting.

"We committed to them that we would provide a quiet, intimate location for their meeting, and that's what we've committed to do," Greg Miller, the host's general manager, said.

Union spokesman Greg Bouris said the decision was made by the hotel.

After arriving at the hotel, Rich Aurilia declined to comment.

Reached on his cell phone, even the usually talkative Curt Schilling refused to discuss steroids.

Baseball didn't ban steroids until Sept. 30, 2002, and testing for steroids with penalties started only this year. Each player is tested once from the start of spring training through the end of the regular season, and a first positive test results in counseling. A player who tests positive a second time could be suspended for 15 days, and discipline rises to a one-year suspension for a fifth positive test.

Players with minor league contracts aren't covered by collective bargaining. They're tested four times per year, in and out of season, and have a wider list of banned substances, including Human Growth Hormone and amphetamines. They're subject to a 15-game suspension for a first positive steroid test, a one-year penalty for a fourth positive test and a lifetime ban from the minors for a fifth positive test.

"The minor league program has been very effective at getting us to very low positive rates in the minor leagues," Manfred said.

Chicago White Sox General Manager Kenny Williams said possible steroid use had become a factor he weighed in evaluations of trades and signings.

"That's part of the equation," he said. "If you have not thought about it in recent years, you've had your head buried in the sand."

Associated Press writers Steven K. Paulson in Denver, Bob Baum in Phoenix and Nancy Armour in Chicago contributed to this report.

Steroid talk slows free agent market

Midnight Tuesday marks arbitration deadline

BY RONALD BLUM
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — The free-agent market slowed to a crawl before Tuesday's midnight deadline for teams to offer salary arbitration to their former players.

Teams held off completing agreements with free agents, waiting to find out whether arbitration offers would be made. In many cases, clubs would lose picks in June's amateur draft for signing players who received arbitration offers from their old clubs.

It appeared the New York Mets would not offer arbitration to left-handed Al Leiter, who has been negotiating with the Florida Marlins. It wasn't known whether Philadelphia would offer arbitration to John Milton, who has been talking with the New York Yankees.

Red Sox principal owner John Henry and chief executive officer Larry Lucchino plan to meet with Pedro Martinez in the Dominican Republic on Wednesday. The two are making the trip to mark the 10th anniversary of the signing of the Red Sox baseball academy outside Santo Domingo.

"Certainly we hope to see and meet with Pedro," Henry wrote in an e-mail to The Associated Press on Monday night. Lucchino said the meeting was intended to be social.

The White Sox appeared resigned to losing four Chicago All-Star Magglio Ordonez. Chicago knows teams will have interest in a 30-year-old outfielder with a .307 career average, 187 homers and 703 RBIs. But Ordonez accepts arbitration, he'd get a salary close to the \$14 million he made last year.

Ordonez only played 52 games last season because of an injured left knee that required surgery, and hasn't allowed Chicago to examine the knee.

"I asked for [an evaluation] a couple of different times," White Sox General Manager Kenny Williams said. "That was actually prior to the end of the season

where I tried to get him back into Chicago for an examination by our doctors. Obviously, we never got that far. And I did ask again at the general manager meetings. I was told we had the same opportunity as all the other clubs out there."

Williams said the White Sox won't pursue Randy Johnson. The 41-year-old left-handed pitcher appears to want to leave rebuilding Arizona to pitch for a contender, but he also has a no-trade clause.

"I've been told he won't pitch on the South Side of Chicago," Williams said.

Just two free agents agreed to contracts Monday, with outfielder Ricky Ledee getting a \$2.5 million, two-year deal from the Los Angeles Dodgers and backup catcher Todd Pratt receiving a \$750,000, one-year deal to stay with the Philadelphia Phillies.

Also Monday, the Colorado Rockies terminated Denny Neagle's \$3.1 million, five-year contract, three days after the oft-injured pitcher was cited for solicitation.

The decision is about an organization and the fans that support it," Rockies chairman Charles Monfort said. "Denny's pattern of behavior has not been consistent with what our organization represents."

Neagle, who has not pitched in more than a year because of injuries, was pulled over Friday in suburban Lakewood for allegedly speeding. Police said a woman in his car told them he had paid her \$400 for oral sex.

Neagle's agent, Barry Meister, declined comment. The players' association could file a grievance to overturn the team's decision and get the left hander the remaining money owed under the contract.

The 36-year-old Neagle is owed \$19 million by the Rockies; \$10 million in 2005 and a \$9 million buyout of a \$12.5 million team option for 2006. He last pitched on July 30, 2003, and to the Rockies in 14 months has had elbow and shoulder surgery.

Orioles wooing RHP Pavano

The Associated Press

BALTIMORE — Carl Pavano was given a tour of Camden Yards on Monday by Baltimore Orioles executive vice president Jim Beattie.

It was the fourth site visit this fall by Pavano, who was 18-8 with a 3.00 ERA with the Florida Marlins last season. He has also been wooed by the Detroit Tigers, New York Yankees and world champion Boston Red Sox.

Pavano arrived in Baltimore on Sunday and had dinner with Orioles manager Peter Angelos. Beattie, manager Lee Mazzilli and pitching coach Ray Miller.

Pavano will next visit with the Seattle Mariners and will head toward Anaheim, where baseball's winter meetings begin Friday.

Beattie said the Orioles did not extend an offer to the right-hand-

er on Monday.

"We're going to talk to him again at the winter meetings," Beattie said.

Tigers Of arrested for theft

PORT CHARLOTTE, Fla. — Detroit Tigers outfielder Craig Monroe was arrested for allegedly stealing a \$29.99 belt from a department store, a records clerk at Charlotte County jail said Tuesday.

Monroe wrapped the belt around his waist and tried to leave the store without paying Friday, according to the arrest report. He posted \$500 bond and was released from county jail that day.

Monroe is scheduled to face arraignment Dec. 15.

Giambi's agent makes first statement since steroid report

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Jason Giambi's agent said the New York Yankees first baseman appreciates the support of fans, though he didn't address a report last week that said his client told a grand jury he used steroids.

Arrn Telleman, who had not returned phone calls seeking comment since the report of Giambi's testimony, issued a one-paragraph statement Monday.

"Jason Giambi is an extremely dedicated athlete and a caring and loyal teammate," Telleman said. "Jason loves the game of baseball, the Yankees, and the extraordinary New York Yankees fans. Jason has always appreciated the steadfast support of the fans who have been there

through good times and bad. He is determined, focused and working hard to return to form in 2005 and help the Yankees get back to the World Series."

Yankees lawyers are investigating whether the team can terminate Giambi's contract, nullifying all or part of the \$82 million he is owed over the final four seasons of his \$120 million, seven-year deal.

Cal keeps coach, demands answer

Tedford signs 5-year deal, calls on coaches to make poll voting public

By GREG BEACHAM
The Associated Press

BERKELEY, Calif. — Jeff Tedford plans to keep California in contention for a Rose Bowl berth during each season of his new five-year contract.

He also wants to know which of his fellow coaches helped prevent the Golden Bears from getting to Pasadena this season.

After signing a lucrative new deal Monday that could keep him at Cal through 2009, Tedford called for voters in the coaches poll to make their choices public. The Bears finished fourth in the poll, but six coaches inexplicably dropped them below No. 6 on the final ballots — one of several factors that kept Cal just short of a Bowl Championship Series berth.

"It's something we need to know," said Tedford, one of the poll's 61 voters. "One of the worst things that could happen is the votes being kept secret. If we had to do it all over again, I would hope that we'd make them public."

Though Cal's players and fans were abuzz over Tedford's new commitment to the school following the Bears' best regular season in a half century, nobody could fathom why six coaches picked the Bears seventh or lower in the final poll — four at No. 7 and two in the eighth slot.

In the previous week's poll, nobody picked Cal lower than sixth.

The latest vote came after Cal's 26-16 win at Southern Mississippi on Saturday night — a close game, but a tough road contest that wasn't in doubt in the final minutes.

Pat-10 Commissioner Tom

Hansen also wants to put names to the votes that hurt Cal's BCS standing.

"These votes should be called out," Hansen said. "We ought to know who did that, because that's wrong."

After leading Texas for several weeks, Cal (10-1) slipped behind the Longhorns into fifth place in the final BCS standings Sunday, in part because the Bears lost ground in both The Associated Press and coaches polls recently.

The BCS drop caused Cal to miss out on the school's first Rose Bowl in 45 years. The Golden Bears got a meeting with Texas Tech in the Holiday Bowl instead.

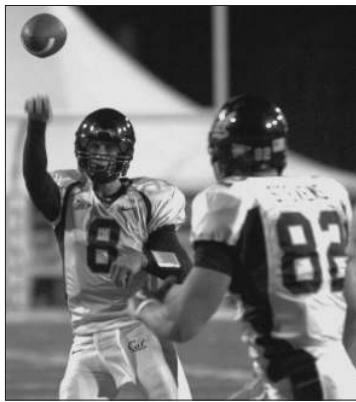
In the AP poll, Cal finished 62 points ahead of Texas in fourth place. In the coaches poll, the Bears were just five points ahead of Texas, which will play Michigan in the Rose Bowl.

The Associated Press made public its poll Sunday, listing each voter's name, news organization and votes for Nos. 1-25. None of the AP media voters had Cal ranked lower than sixth.

But the American Football Coaches Association conducts the balloting for the ESPN/USA Today coaches poll, and the coaches voted twice this week to keep their ballots secret.

"I certainly have a question of some of them," Hansen said of the coaches' votes. "Something pretty unusual happened between last week and this week. I'd like to have the Cal football team be able to know which coaches thought they weren't in the top six teams."

AFCA President Grant Teaff said the ballots from the final coaches poll will not be released.



California quarterback Aaron Rodgers, left, throws a short pass to tight end Craig Stevens during Saturday's game against Southern Mississippi in Hattiesburg, Miss. The Golden Bears were denied a spot in a lucrative BCS bowl, in part because six coaches dropped the team below sixth place in the final balloting for the ESPN/USA Today poll.

He said he didn't believe there was anything suspicious about the final voting.

"We do very good due diligence to run a credible poll," he said. "I understand their obvious concerns. I'm not oblivious to that." Teaff said making the ballots open will be discussed again in January.

The controversy didn't detract from Tedford's excitement over a new contract that should end speculation on his future at Cal. With other schools already inquiring about Tedford's availability for the third straight year, the coach and athletic director Sandy Barbour got something done quickly.

"I didn't want to entertain anything else," Tedford said. "I hope everybody knows by now that I am 100 percent committed to this program in the future."

And Cal is committed to Ted-

ford, who will make \$1.5 million per year plus as much as \$300,000 in incentives, along with a \$2.5 million retention bonus at the end of the contract. The bonus boosts his annual salary to \$2.1 million — exactly the amount that will be made by new Florida coach Urban Meyer.

It's an impressive financial investment for Cal, an academic power where athletics have always been viewed skeptically by certain faculty and students. It's also a significant coup for Barbour, who raised all the money to keep her football coach entirely from private donors in just 2½ months on the job.

"There was a call to action that we put out there, and I can't say enough about how people responded," Barbour said. "I've said for months that I believed Jeff wanted to be here, and now he has proven it."

Associated Press writer Janie MacCauley contributed to this report.

Zook hired to fix Illini

By JIM PAUL
The Associated Press

CHAMPAIGN, Ill. — Illinois is turning to Ron Zook to reinvent its struggling football program.

The school scheduled an afternoon news conference to introduce the former Florida coach, said Kent Brown, the university's sports information director.

Zook and athletic director Ron Gueither talked last Tuesday, but Illinois could not name a new coach until a two-week waiting period to meet equal employment opportunity guidelines passed.

The deadline was 5 p.m. Monday.

Florida fired Zook on Oct. 25, two days after the Gators lost at Mississippi State, satisfying a growing groundswell for his ouster that began two years earlier — after he replaced Steve Spurrier.

But Zook coached the Gators for the rest of the season and led them to a 3-1 record in their final four games and an invitation to the Peach Bowl. In his two seasons at Florida, he went 23-14 with impressive victories over eventual national champion LSU last season and an upset of Florida State on Nov. 20, the Gators' first win in Tallahassee since 1986.

Zook has 26 years of coaching experience, including six years in the NFL as an assistant for the Kansas City Chiefs, Pittsburgh Steelers and New Orleans Saints, where he served as offensive coordinator for two seasons.

At Illinois, Zook will replace Ron Turner, who was fired Nov. 22 — two days after finishing his third straight losing season.

Turner's teams won only five Big Ten games after winning the conference championship in 2001 and going to the Sugar Bowl.

Zook, 50, has a reputation for being a tireless recruiter.



Zook

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New Gamer Laptop
with AMD 64 processor!!!
LCD 17" w/ MP3 Player, Digital Cameras
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or www.militarysource.net

IOC investigating Jones for doping violations

The Associated Press

LONDON — The IOC opened an investigation Tuesday into doping allegations against Marion Jones, who could eventually be stripped of her five medals from the 2000 Olympics.

International Olympic Committee President Jacques Rogge set up a disciplinary commission to look into the claims made by Victor Conte, head of the California-based lab accused of illegally distributing steroids.

Conte told ABC's "20/20" in a broadcast aired Friday that he gave Jones performance-enhancing drugs before and after the Sydney Olympics. He said he watched Jones injected herself with human growth hormone.

"The allegations made by Mr. Conte are extremely serious and the IOC is fully committed to

Sports briefs

in a statement.

Jones won three gold and two bronze track and field medals in Sydney. She repeatedly has denied ever using banned drugs, and has threatened to sue Conte for defamation.

Rogge advocates a "zero tolerance" policy on doping.

World Anti-Doping Agency chief Dick Pound, a senior IOC member, has said Jones medals should be stripped if Conte is telling the truth. Any decision on the medals would be made by the IOC executive board.

Last week, Rogge said it was too early to speculate about revo-

king the medals.

"I hope the truth will emerge," he said. "We want the truth. We want to know what happened and the more we know, the better."

White says she didn't know she was using steroids at first

WASHINGTON — Sprinter Kelli White thought she was taking flaxseed oil when the former world champion first started using banned substances provided by Victor Conte.

"He gave me vitamins and protein shakes and things that I was told were flaxseed oil," White told ABC News "Nightline" in an interview broadcast Monday night.

White, who won two gold medals at the 2003 world championships, previously said she had only taken the prescription stimulant modafinil because she suffered from a sleep disorder.

But she later admitted to taking illegal performance-enhancing drugs in May, and accepted a two-year drug ban that cost her a trip to the Athens Olympics and every medal she won the past four years.

White said she found out she was misled two weeks after hooking up with Conte.

Stanford offensive coordinator takes Western Michigan job

KALAMAZOO, Mich. — Stanford offensive coordinator Bill Cubit was hired Tuesday as head coach at Western Michigan.

Cubit replaces Gary Darnell, who was fired Nov. 14 but stayed on to coach the final game of the season six days later. The Broncos lost 31-21 at Marshall, finishing the season 1-10 overall and 0-8 in the Mid-American Conference.

NFL scoreboard

American Conference

East	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
New England	11	0	1	.917	350	189
N.Y. Jets	9	4	0	.750	254	175
Buffalo	6	6	0	.500	260	224
Pittsburgh	6	6	0	.500	260	224
Indianapolis	6	6	0	.500	260	224
Jacksonville	6	6	0	.500	260	224
Tennessee	4	6	0	.333	231	294

South	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Pittsburgh	11	0	1	.917	350	189
Baltimore	9	4	0	.750	254	175
Cincinnati	6	5	0	.556	268	272
Cleveland	3	9	0	.250	240	308

West	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
San Diego	9	4	0	.750	259	228
San Francisco	8	5	0	.615	274	212
Kansas City	4	6	0	.333	341	326
Oakland	4	6	0	.333	234	328

National Conference

East	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
x-Philadelphia	11	0	1	.917	340	181
Dallas	9	4	0	.750	256	158
N.Y. Giants	5	7	0	.417	209	220
Washington	0	9	0	.000	149	261

South	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Atlanta	9	5	0	.750	232	242
Carolina	5	7	0	.417	249	257
Tampa Bay	4	7	0	.333	233	263
New Orleans	4	6	0	.333	253	344

North	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Green Bay	7	5	0	.583	218	234
Minnesota	7	5	0	.583	236	286
Chicago	5	7	0	.417	196	325
Detroit	4	7	0	.333	218	269

West	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
St. Louis	6	6	0	.500	253	305
Carolina	5	7	0	.417	214	242
Arizona	4	6	0	.333	192	263
San Francisco	4	6	0	.333	198	336

Sunday's games	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Buffalo 26, Arizona 12						
Chicago 24, Baltimore 26						
Indianapolis 51, Tennessee 24						
Cincinnati 27, Minnesota 20						
Tampa Bay 17, Atlanta 0						
Chicago 24, New Orleans 21						
New England 42, Cleveland 15						
Washington 17, Denver 17						
Kansas City 24, Oakland 27						
Washington 31, N.Y. Giants 7						
Philadelphia 47, Green Bay 17						
San Diego 27, San Francisco 10						

Monday's game	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Dallas 43, Seattle 39						
Oakland at Atlanta						
New Orleans at Dallas						
Cleveland at Buffalo						
Indianapolis at Baltimore						
Indianapolis at Houston						
Cincinnati at Jacksonville						
Cincinnati at New England						
N.Y. Jets at Pittsburgh						
Denver at Detroit						
Detroit at Green Bay						
San Diego at Carolina						
San Francisco at Arizona						
San Diego at San Diego						
Philadelphia at Washington						

Monday, Dec. 13	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Kansas City at Tennessee						
Monday, Dec. 13						
Cowboys 43, Seahawks 39						

Dallas	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Seattle	14	0	0	.923	339	142
First Quarter						
Sea-Rice 27 pass from Hasselbeck						
Sea-Jacks 10 (Kirkick), 10-0						
Dal-GC 29 (39, 8-9)						
Sea-Jacks 21 (pass from Hasselbeck)						
(Brown kick), 34-7						

Second Quarter	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Dal-GC 29 (39, 12-12)						
Sea-Jacks 9 pass from Testaverde (run failed), 36-7						
Third Quarter						
Dal-Jones 9 run (Cundiff kick), 32-7						
Dal-Jones 10 run (Cundiff kick), 13-45						
Dal-GC 29 (47, 12-12)						
Sea-GC 17 (Brown 21, 3-0)						

Fourth Quarter	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Sea-Alexander 19 pass from Kirkick, 9-36						
Sea-Jacks 19 pass from Hasselbeck (Jackson pass from Hasselbeck), 5-29						
Sea-Alexander 21 run (Brown kick), 2-6						
Dal-Kirkick 34 pass from Testaverde (Cundiff 1-42)						
Dal-Jones 17 run (Cundiff kick), 32-32						
SEA-60-93						

First downs	Dal	Sea
Total net yards	405	507
Rushes-yards	31-192	27-109
Passing	207	208
Turnovers	1-12	7-21
Punt Returns	1-12	2-24
Kickoff Returns	7-56	7-121
Interceptions Ret.	0-22	2-22
Blocked	18-12	2-0
Sacked-Yards Lost	3-18	2-16
Fumbles-Lost	2-1	1-5
Penalties-Yards	10-37	3-12
Time of Possession	28:43	31:27

Individual Statistics	Dal	Sea
Rushing-Dallas: James 26-125, Testaverde 14-94, Seattle: Alexander 21-83, Hasselbeck 25-140		
Passing-Dallas: Testaverde 16-34, 225, 2-16, 18-100, Seattle: Hasselbeck 25-40, 414		
Receiving-Dallas: Johnson 6-116, Witten 5-61, Jones 5-111, Morgan 2-19, Cooper 2-28, Seattle: Alexander 11-133, Kirkick 1-23, Stevens 2-20, Brown 2-36, Miller 2-30, Erickson 1-1		
Missed field goals-None.		

Cardinals make another QB switch

The Associated Press

TEMPE, Ariz. — The Arizona Cardinals' quarterback carousel kept right on spinning Monday, with coach Dennis Green choosing Josh McCown as next week's starter by default.

Seventh-round draft pick John Navarre broke his right ring finger during a 26-14 loss at Detroit. Asked if Navarre, who threw four interceptions, played well enough to have kept the Cardinals' QB seat warm, Green called the question irrelevant because the rookie is out for two to three weeks.

"He had four throws that he would love to have back," Green said. "I think that he's a strong personality type, had some good poise."

McCown led the Cardinals to a 4-5 record that included two straight victories. But he threw for only 129 and 90 yards, respectively, in the wins over Miami and the New York Giants, and Green decided to see what the backups could do.

The Cardinals went 0-3 under Shaun King and Navarre, scoring 27 points and making 12 turnovers. The last loss guaranteed their 19th consecutive season in the first 20 years.

"When you lose three in a row, it's tough, and a win is always the cure-all for that week," McCown said. "It always makes everybody feel better, so that's what I'm focused on."

One of Green's first decisions with Arizona was to anoint McCown, a third-year veteran from San Houston State, his top quarterback. Green was so sure about it that he passed on Ben Roethlisberger with the No. 3 pick in Arizona to take wide receiver Larry Fitzgerald.

McCown got no indication from Green about whether he would finish the season as No. 1.

"Just this game [against San Francisco], and that's all that matters," McCown said. "I can't worry about the next four games."

Ratley, Barlow questionable

SANTA CLARA, Calif. — San Francisco quarterback Tim Ratley and running back Kevan Barlow are questionable for Sunday's game at Arizona, the latest misery in the 49ers' 11th season.

Ratley partially tore the fascia muscle in his right foot early in the Niners' loss at St. Louis, coach Dennis Erickson said Monday. Ratley will wear a protective boot this week, and Erickson believes the quarterback could be out for two weeks or more.

Barlow's disappointing season took another turn when he got a concussion in last Sunday's loss. He has just 629 yards rushing and six touchdowns this season, and his average of 3.2 yards per carry is the NFL's lowest among starting running backs.

Barlow missed out on all three of his starts earlier this season while Ratley was out with other injuries, is expected to start Sunday. Dorsey has thrown four interceptions and no touchdowns passes this season while playing with nagging injuries to his thumb and groin.



Cardinals quarterback Josh McCown watches the final minute on Sunday, when the rookie threw four interceptions in his first start.

Raiders lose Curry for season

ALAMEDA, Calif. — WR Ronald Curry tore his left Achilles' tendon and is done for the season.

The receiver was hurt during Sunday's 34-27 loss to Kansas City and will miss the season, Raiders coach Norv Turner said Monday.

The team hopes to have Curry back at full strength by training camp after what's expected to be six months of rehabilitation. Curry had the same injury to his right Achilles' tendon during college at North Carolina.

The 25-year-old Curry has a team-high 50 catches and six touchdowns receiving.

Rolle to miss 2-4 weeks

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — Cornerback Samari Rolle had surgery on his left knee Monday and will be out two to four weeks.

Coach Jeff Fisher said there was a chance Rolle could return before the season ends Jan. 2 against Detroit.

The Titans also lost linebacker Rocky Calmus for the season with a strained left hamstring.

Chandler to start this week

ST. LOUIS — For at least another week, the Rams offense will be in the hands of 39-year-old Chris Chandler, the backup to the injured Marc Bulger.

Bulger sprained his right shoulder on a sack by Bryant Young with 1:40 left in the first quarter of Sunday's 16-6 victory over the 49ers. The injury is identical to one he sustained at Miami on Oct. 24, when he would have missed one week except the Rams (6-6) had a bye.

Cochi Mike Martz said Monday that Bulger, who had led the NFL in yards passing before Sunday, didn't completely recover from

NFL injury update

Injuries to prominent NFL players, following by team's prognosis. See Friday's edition for complete injury report provided by the league:
 • **John Abraham** (Texans) will miss Sunday's game and is week-to-week.
 • **DeDerick Burgess** (Chiefs) is out for the rest of the season.
 • **OT Mike Williams** (Kings) and TE Mark Campbell (Kings) are questionable.

the earlier injury until last week.

"There's a little bit of swelling in the joint, but there's no damage evident to the ligaments that hold the joint together, which is terrific," Martz said. "Hopefully we'll get him back in short order, but we'll have to see."

Chandler was 18-for-27 for 216 yards and his first touchdown pass in more than a year. He'll be making his 151st career start for an NFL-record seven teams, and that includes an earlier stint in 1994 with the Rams when Martz was the team's quarterback coach.

Vikings lose CB Winfield for 2 weeks

EDEN PRAIRIE, Minn. — Cornerback Antwonwine Winfield will miss at least two starts with a high ankle sprain. Winfield, who leads the Vikings with 94 tackles and three interceptions, injured his left ankle in the first quarter of Sunday's 24-14 loss at Chicago.

He could suit up in a reserve role Dec. 19 at Detroit, but isn't expected to start until the following week against Green Bay, coach Mike Tice said. Terrance Shaw, who filled in Sunday, will start this week against Seattle. Derek Ross will take Shaw's spot in the nickel package.

Packers' Diggs still in hospital

GREEN BAY, Wis. — Linebacker Nal'D Diggs remained hospitalized Monday with a bruised kidney he sustained Sunday at Philadelphia.

Diggs was taken to a hospital in Philadelphia after getting hurt during the Packers' 47-17 loss to the Eagles, then flew home on the team charter and was taken to a hospital in Green Bay so doctors could perform additional tests and keep him under observation.

"I have concerns about him as a player, as an athlete," coach Mike Sherman said Monday. "But I think he'll be back tomorrow. To what degree? Things have to clear up considerably."

Sherman said he'll list Diggs, his top linebacker, as doubtful for Sunday's game against Detroit. If he can't play, Paris Lenon will start in his place.

Fassel won't pursue college jobs

OWINGS MILLS, Md. — Jim Fassel will not interview for coaching vacancies at Notre Dame and Stanford, opting instead to continue his pursuit of an NFL job as a head coach.

"I have no plans to pursue or accept a college job this year," he said Monday. Fassel was head coach of the New York Giants from 1997-2003. Now a senior consultant with the Baltimore Ravens, he has been working extensively with the offense while overseeing the developing second-year quarterback Kyle Boller.

The Seahawks led 32-29 with 5:29 to go after Matt Hasselbeck's 19-yard TD pass to Jereme Urban and a successful 2-point conversion pass to Darrell Jackson. It was time for the knockout punch.

Ken Hamlin came up with a huge interception that gave the Seahawks possession at the 40. "We are our own worst enemy," coach Mike Holmgren said. "We were tonight. I know I've said that before. We do some very tight games and then we do some things that demonstrate a lack of maturity. It has cost us dearly this season."

Seattle wasn't out of it, erasing a 15-point hole with three scoring drives in the fourth quarter.

Changes: Seahawks spinning out of contention

CHANGES, FROM BACK PAGE

It's another story for Seattle (6-6), which has won only three games after a 3-0 start and dropped into a tie with the NFC West with St. Louis. Worse for the Seahawks, the Rams hold the tiebreaker with two head-to-head wins.

The talk in training camp was that Seattle would be ready to contend in the NFC. With road trips to Minnesota and the New York Jets ahead, Dorey home games against Arizona and Atlanta, nothing is certain.

"We need to get back to work. We have to put it behind us and do the right thing," said Seattle receiver Jerry Rice, who became the

NFL's career leader in combined net yards with 23,469.

Seattle will still be among the Seahawks were sharp in building an early 14-3 lead. Then came three fumbles that helped Dallas score 26 unanswered points in the second and third quarters.

"We are our own worst enemy," coach Mike Holmgren said. "We were tonight. I know I've said that before. We do some very tight games and then we do some things that demonstrate a lack of maturity. It has cost us dearly this season."

Seattle wasn't out of it, erasing a 15-point hole with three scoring drives in the fourth quarter.

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SPORTS



Kidd gives Nets lift
in season debut,
Page 30



Last-minute changes

Dallas rally stuns
Seattle, changes
playoff prospects

BY TIM KORTE
The Associated Press

SEATTLE — Bill Parcells told his team over the past two weeks that playoff scenarios can change quickly.

That's for sure. Just look at the Dallas Cowboys, instantly in the thick of the post-season chase.

And check out the slumping Seattle Seahawks, in danger of missing the playoffs after a 3-0 start.

Rookie Julius Jones capped a remarkable comeback for the Cowboys with a 17-yard touchdown run with 32 seconds left, and Dallas stunned the struggling Seahawks 43-39 on Monday night to pull into the crowded NFC playoff picture.

"I have not been around too many like that," Parcells said. "That was unbelievable. I feel fortunate to win."

Jones ran for 198 yards and three touchdowns, and the Cowboys (5-7) overcame a 10-point deficit with less than two minutes remaining.

"I looked around and guys were talking, saying, 'Let's go,'" quarterback Vinny Testaverde said, recalling the huddle at the 2-minute warning. "That tells me they were ready to give everything they had on every play. I admired the courage of our guys."

Testaverde threw for 225 yards and three TDs, including a 34-yard pass to Keyshawn Johnson to get Dallas to 39-35 with 1:45 left. Jason Witten recovered an onside kick, and Dallas was in business at its 43.

Eight plays later, Testaverde handed off to Jones and immediately raised his arms as he watched the rookie burst through Seattle's defensive line and sprint into the end zone.

"There was a huge hole," Jones said. "I can't say enough about the offensive line. They were making holes like that for me all night."

With four games remaining, there's no reason to think the Cowboys can't break into the playoffs just as easily. Dallas is one of six NFC teams at 5-7, and it's a wide-open race.

"Coach Parcells always tells us not to count ourselves out," Witten said.

SEE CHANGES ON PAGE 34



Cowboys running back Julius Jones races past Seahawks' Ken Hamlin into the end zone for the winning touchdown, the second Dallas scored in the final 2:46 as the Cowboys erased Seattle's 10-point lead to win 43-39, a fact bemoaned by a Seahawks fan, inset top.

Illinois
celebrates move
to top of poll
by beating
Chicago State

Page 31



Tedford signs
new deal with Cal,
calls out coaches
who dropped
Bears in polls

Page 33



Progress, no deal
on steroid testing

Page 32

Cardinals switch back to McCown as starting QB Page 34

